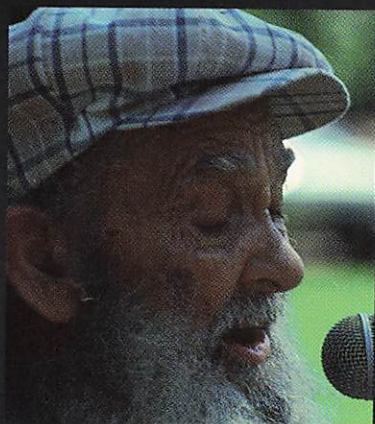


MISSISSIPPI



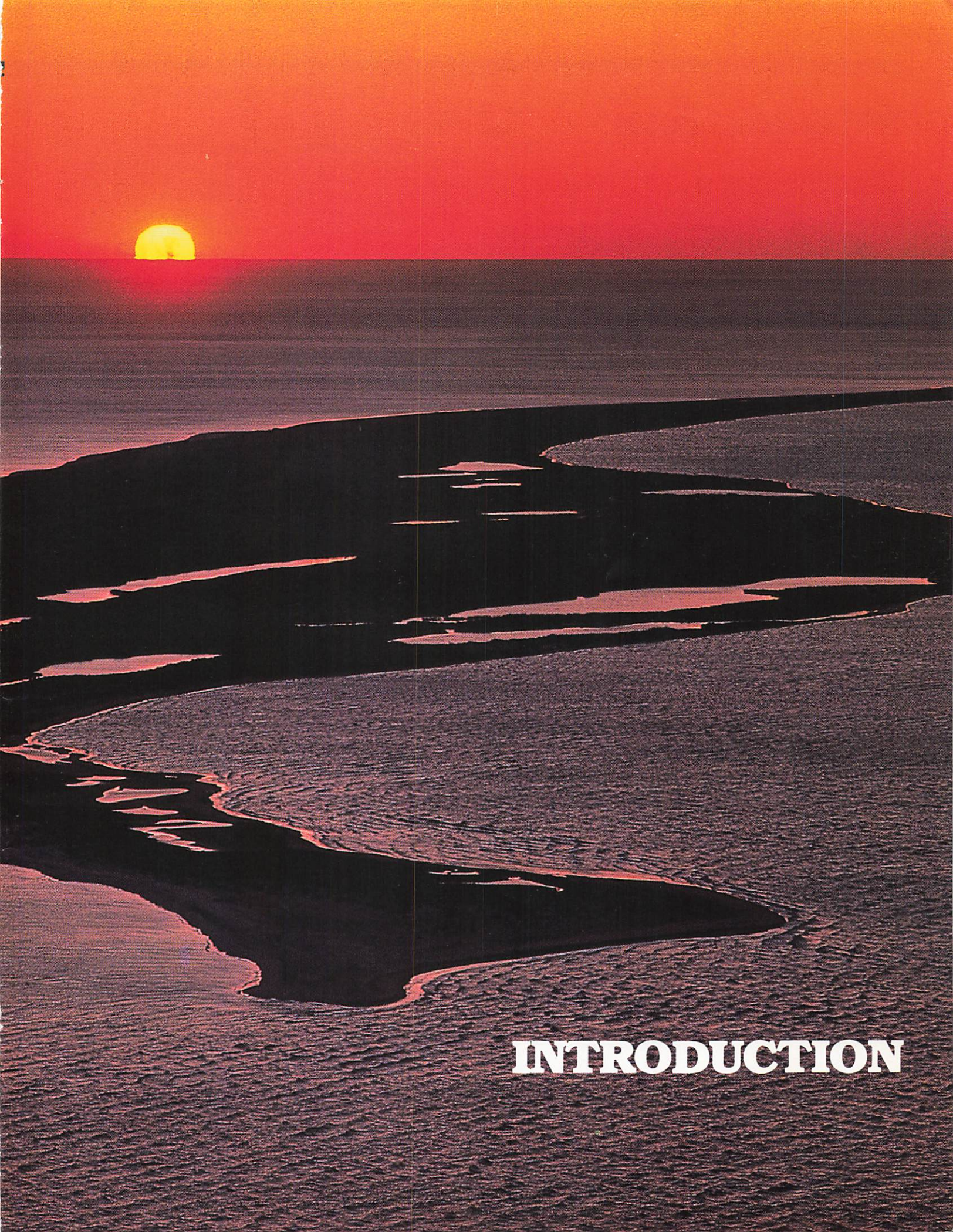
MISSISSIPPI

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Published 1988
by
Dick Molpus
Secretary of State



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Mississippi begins with wonder. For more than the land it occupies, more than the facts of history, Mississippi begins with a feeling that there is more about this place than the senses can convey.

As one travels through Mississippi, the feeling grows, as if the land itself could speak to tell its story. It is a story of the people who came and settled here and how the land received them and slowly changed them, until they were no longer Indian, European, African — but Mississippian. It is a story of the years, miles, and lives from which this land was made into a home — and we were made into a people distinctly of this land.



Physically, Mississippi is easy to describe. Cartographers locate us between 30 and 34 degrees north latitude and 88 and 91 degrees west longitude in the northern hemisphere's temperate zone and in the center of America's Mid-South. We are bounded on the east by Alabama, on the north by Tennessee, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by the Mississippi River, which gave the state its name. Our state measures 350 miles north to south and 180 miles east to west. Mississippi contains 47,716 square miles of valleys and hills, growing cities, small towns, expansive forests, rolling prairies, creeks, rivers, lakes, and some of the finest farmland in the world.

Our location and climate make the state ideal for agriculture, and, for most of Mississippi's history, agriculture was the primary means of livelihood for the citizens of the state. Our winters are mild, intermingled with warm, spring-like days. The average temperature in January is 48 degrees. Summers are long, making it possible to grow crops from March through October. The average temperature in July is 81 degrees, but more common summer temperatures range in the 90s. The average rainfall is 52 inches, and fall, the time of harvest, is the driest season.

Rivers are plentiful in Mississippi. Along our western border flows the Mississippi River; the Yazoo, Yocona, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Big Black, Coldwater, and Yalobusha rivers and all their tributaries flow from north and central Mississippi to meet it. To the north lies the Tombigbee River that, as part of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, is navigable all the way through Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico. The Pearl River flows through the central part of the state, and in the southeast, the Leaf and Chickasawhay rivers drift slowly to join the Pascagoula, which continues south to meet the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to our rivers, Mississippi has six reservoirs. Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada, and Sardis were built in the 1930s to collect the river water that for hundreds of years caused flooding in Mississippi. The waters collect in the spring and resume their normal course in the fall. These four reservoirs, along with the Ross Barnett in central Mississippi and the Okatibbee in the east central part of the state, provide fishing and water recreation for Mississippians for much of the year.

Mississippi has a number of distinct regions. The Mississippi Delta is a large, fertile alluvial plain lying in the northwest between the Mississippi and the Yazoo rivers. Until the 1850s, the Delta was swamp and overflow land for the Mississippi and the Yazoo. By the sweat and blood of man and mule, 300 miles of levees were built along the Mississippi River, and the Delta was slowly drained and cultivated. Today's Delta contains some of the nation's richest farmlands. At the eastern edge of the Delta, the land suddenly changes. From the table-flat Delta rise the bluffs of the Loess Hills that stretch up into Tennessee and down into Louisiana. South of Vicksburg and extending south to Louisiana, the

River Lowlands lie nestled between the Mississippi River and the Loess Hills. The soil of this area is similar to the Delta's in composition—a rich blend of loam and silt left from thousands of years of flooding by the Mississippi River.

Another region lies to the northeast where the Tennessee Hills gradually subside into the rolling farmlands of the Tombigbee Prairie, a crescent of rich, black soil that rivals the Delta's in productivity. On the western edge of the Tombigbee Prairie lie the hardwood highlands of the Pontotoc Ridge, and along its southwestern border lies a sliver of land averaging nine miles wide known as the Flatwoods. Between the Brown Loam region and the Flatwoods lie the Red Clay Hills, a region of rich river bottoms and dense hardwood forests. This area is bounded on the south by the fertile pasturelands of the Jackson Prairie, a region much like the Tombigbee Prairie. South of the Jackson Prairie lies the Piney Woods Region, taking its name from pine forests that covered much of the land until early in the twentieth century. These lands support countless farms and cattle ranches. Finally, south of the Piney Woods are the Coastal Meadows, whose flat, sandy land eventually gives way to the man-made white sand beaches of our coast on the Gulf of Mexico.

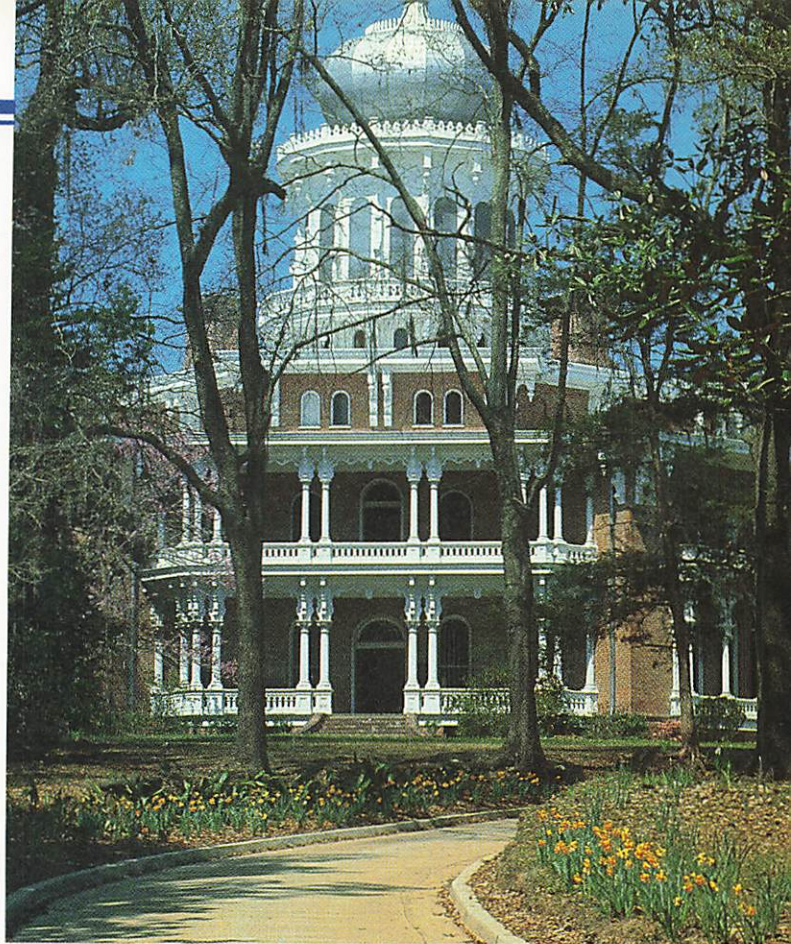
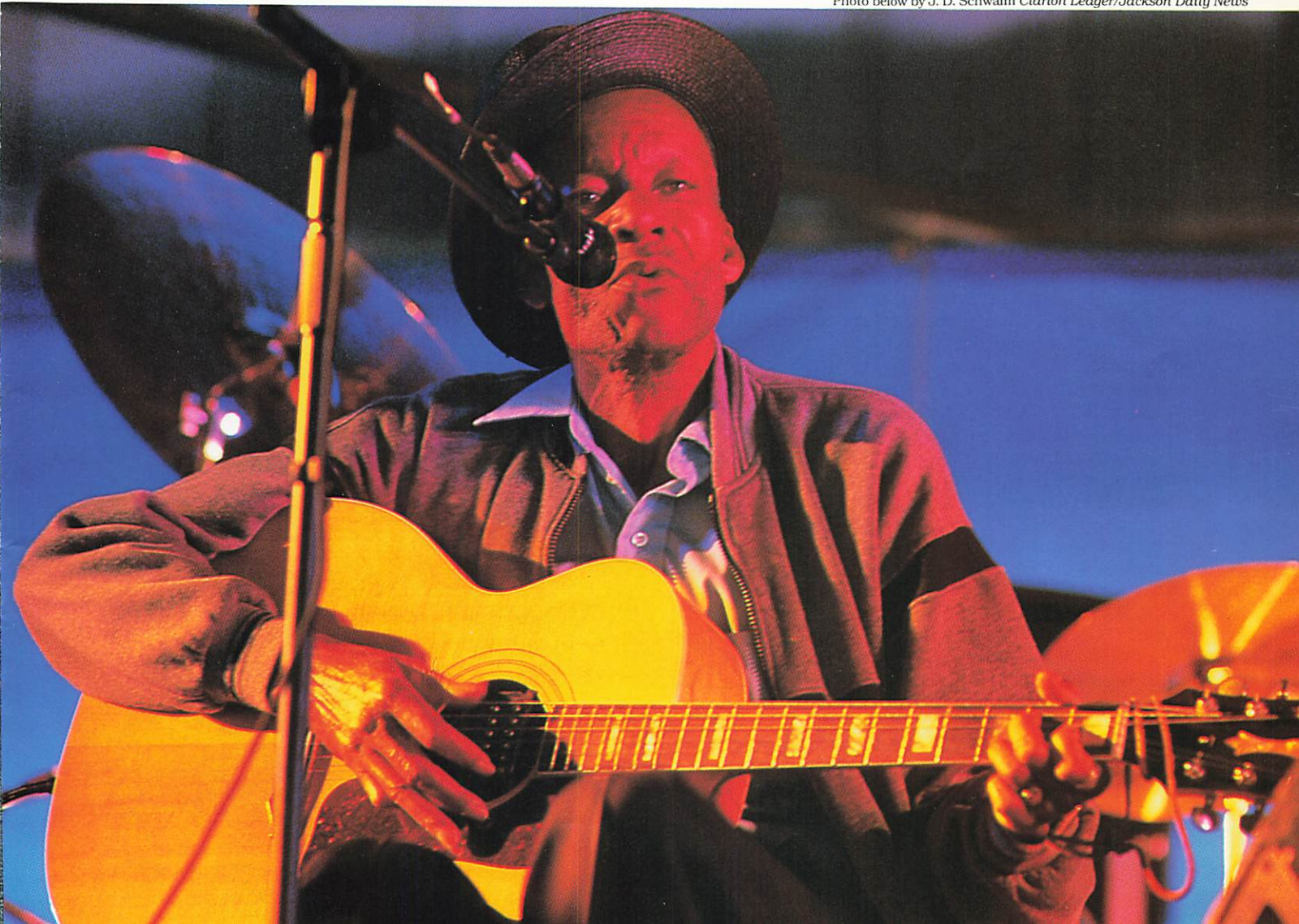


Photo below by J. D. Schwalm *Clarion Ledger/Jackson Daily News*



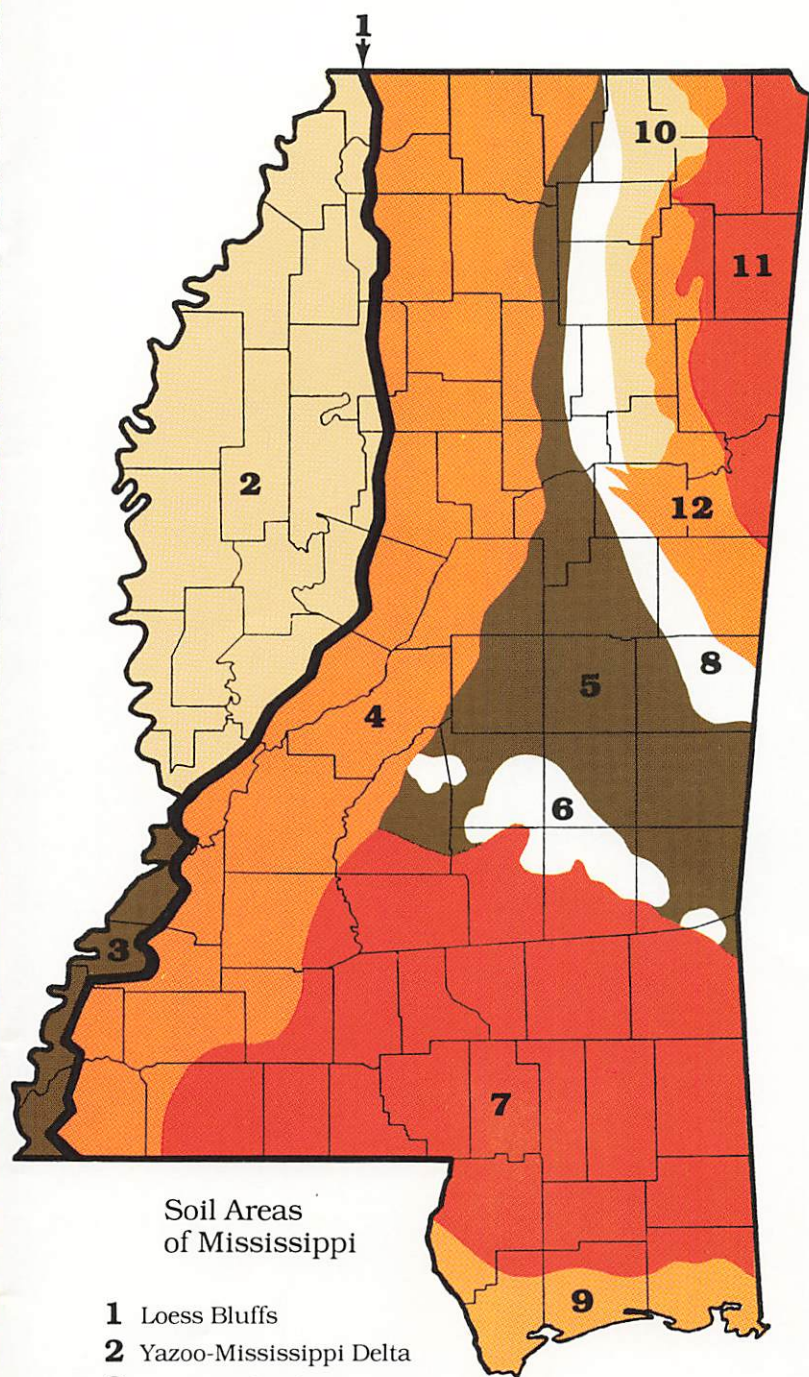
Uniting Mississippians from these diverse regions is a strong sense of place—a sense of community and a sense of belonging to the land. Our roots run deep into the earth, back through time—back into the lives of others. We are the first Americans, the Indians, whose language flavors the names of our rivers, our towns, and our counties—Homochitto, Yalobusha, Natchez, Attala. We are French and Spanish explorers and settlers, the first Europeans to settle this land. We are the English, from whom we take our laws; we are the early Americans who made of a wilderness a home and of a home a way of life. We are the Scots, Irish, Orientals, Italians, Greeks. We are the Africans who, brought to this land as slaves, created a treasure of music, legend, and song.

Mississippi's pride of place has had both a positive and a negative effect on her history. Such pride led Mississippi to secede from the Union, and this same insulating pride led to post-war policies of social, economic, and political segregation and oppression of the black population of the state. Pressure from the federal government and the violence associated with those civil rights conflicts convinced moderate Mississippians that a change from the old racial *status quo* was necessary and morally correct. As Governor Paul Johnson stated rather hopefully in his inaugural address in 1964, Mississippians were now "in the mainstream of national life."

The positive effect of Mississippi's pride of place has been enormous. When it became apparent that agriculture alone—particularly a one-crop agricultural dependence on cotton—was not sufficient to promote the growth of the state's economy, Governor Hugh White in 1936 pushed a program to "Balance Agriculture With Industry." Nearly thirty years later, in the middle 1960s, there were finally more Mississippians employed in industry than in agriculture. Today there is a balance closer to Governor White's dream. Mississippi is among the nation's foremost producers of timber, oil, natural gas, cotton, rice, sorghum, poultry, and catfish.

A strong pride of place has led Mississippi to recognize the relation between education and economy. Mississippi is fiftieth in per capita income in the United States, and she is fiftieth in educational attainment within the public schools. Mississippi's unemployment rate is high compared to the national average. In response to these conditions, the 1982 Education Reform Act was passed to provide (among other items) kindergartens, compulsory attendance, new criteria for teacher training and certification, and performance-based school accreditation. Besides the Education Reform Act, there is the Sixteenth Section Land Reform Act of 1978, which protects the School Trust Lands and offers a means to upgrade education through additional revenues. There is reason for optimism in the present administration's enthusiastic support for public education as a key to economic growth and stability.





Soil Areas
of Mississippi

- 1 Loess Bluffs
- 2 Yazoo-Mississippi Delta
- 3 River Lowlands
- 4 Brown-Loam Area
- 5 Sand-Clay Hills
- 6 Central Prairie
- 7 Piney Woods
- 8 Flatwoods
- 9 Gulf Coastal Terrace
- 10 Pontotoc Ridge
- 11 Northeastern (Tennessee) Hills
- 12 Tombigbee (Northeastern) Prairie

Mississippi's greatest gift to be granted from the strong sense of place has been the gift of a dynamic creative spirit—a spirit wedded to the land itself. It is with this greatest of gifts that Mississippians have changed the world.

From our churches and fields, from our front porches and kitchens, from our deepest joys and most profound sorrows has come music that has shaped American culture and given the world new avenues of expression. Blues, jazz, gospel, country music, and rock-and-roll have their roots deep in our culture.

We have changed the face of literature. Our poets, historians, novelists, and playwrights are among the world's most celebrated.

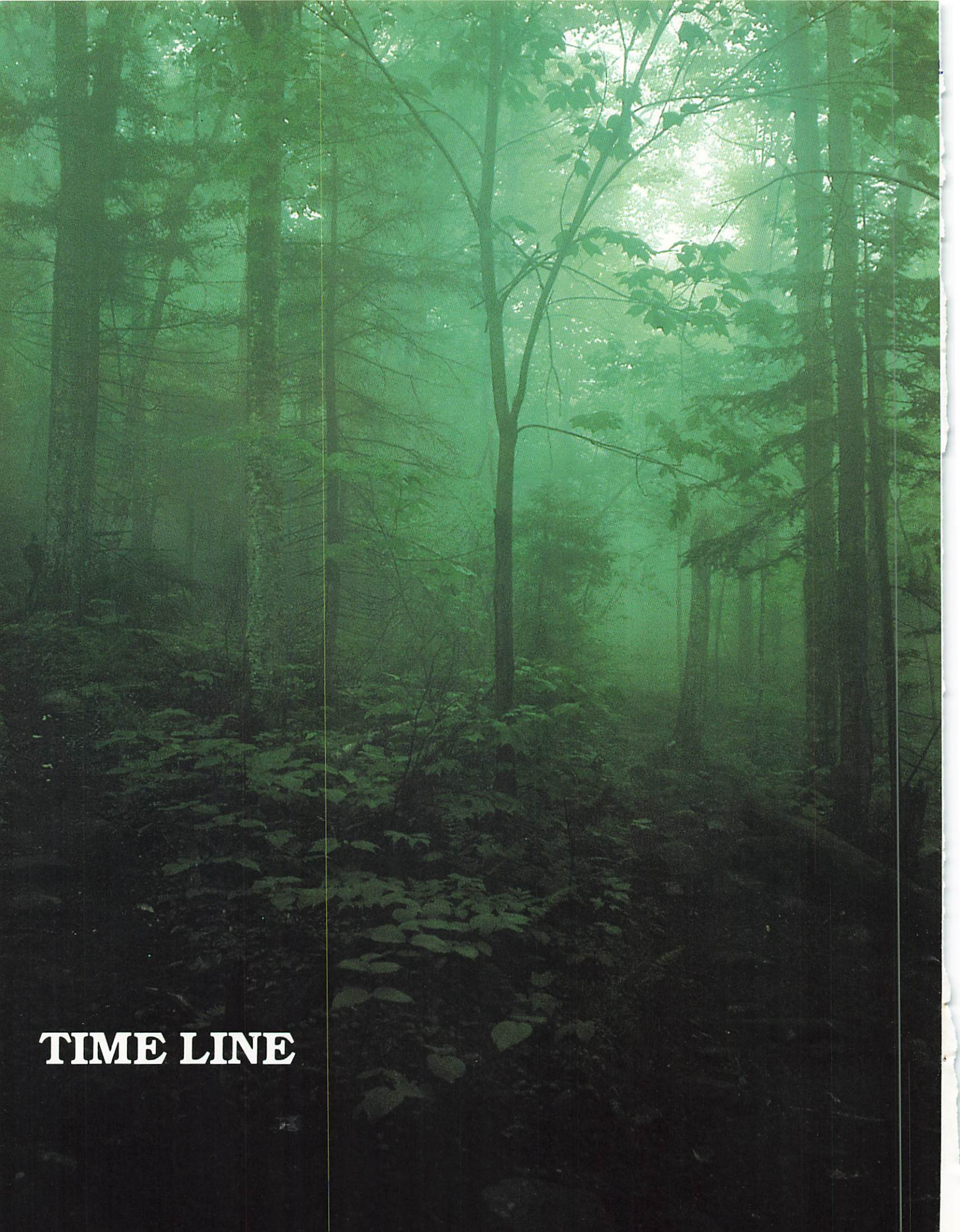
From humble and rural origins, Mississippians have become leaders of industry, athletes, newspaper editors, astronauts, dancers, artists, composers, opera stars.

In making progress against two of mankind's oldest enemies—fear and prejudice—we have learned much from Mississippians who loved Mississippi enough to change it.

Mississippians remember, and remembering connects us to our land and to one another. "When Mississippians meet by chance," wrote Mississippi author Willie Morris, "is it not something to behold? The swapping of tales about families and places, the talk of mutual friends down here—and we always know someone in common in Itta Bena or Iuka or Tchula or Osyka—the stories about football or fishing or some long-vanished preacher—are signs of an extraordinary mutability. . . . If we were forced to isolate from all of this a common denominator to our curious distinctiveness, I would say it had to do with an awareness of community, a profound feeling for communal origins."

Mississippi is our home. Returning to it after being long away or perhaps only traveling to another part of it, the Mississippian feels within him a recognition—a feeling that translates within the soul as "welcome home." It can be felt in the capital city of Jackson as we hurry along streets shaded by modern buildings filled with commerce and government. It can be felt driving through the vast, flat Delta farmlands where night-black soil gives up its yearly bounty of rice, soybeans, and cotton. It can be felt in the gently rolling hills, in the Piney Woods, and on the white sand beaches of the Gulf.

It is our home, our Mississippi, speaking to us, its people. Every town we pass through, the names, the sights sing within us . . . sing of the past and its legacies, the present and its opportunities, the future and its promise.



TIME LINE

Time Line

Native Dominion

Upon the first arrival of Europeans, the region now included in the State of Mississippi was inhabited by three powerful Indian tribes; the Choctaws, the Chickasaws and the Natchez. The Choctaws occupied the central and southern portions of the present state; the Chickasaws lived in the northern part, and the Natchez inhabited the land along the Mississippi River, in the counties of Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson and Wilkinson. Among the smaller tribes which also lived in Mississippi were the Biloxis and Pascagoulas in the Gulf Coast section and the Tunicas, Chocchumas and Yazoo along the Yazoo River.

Spanish Dominion, 1540-1699

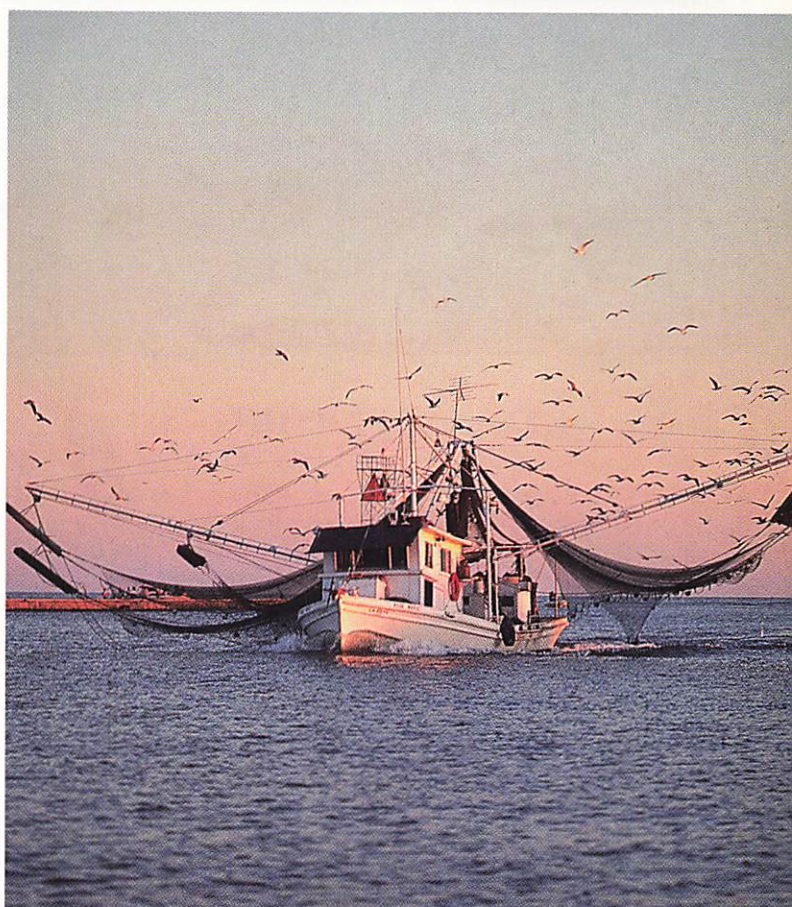
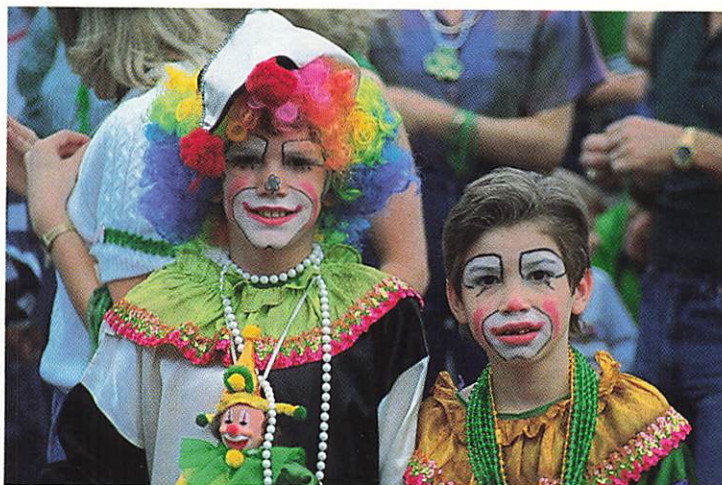
- 1540-1541 Hernando De Soto, Spanish explorer, becomes the first known European to enter Mississippi. He winters with the Chickasaws and discovers the Mississippi River in the spring.
- 1673 Father Jacques Marquette, a French missionary, and fur trapper Louis Joliet begin exploration of the Mississippi River on May 17. They reach Mississippi in July and explore as far south as the mouth of the Arkansas River, near the present location of Rosedale, before turning back.
- 1682 Robert Cavalier de La Salle navigates the Mississippi River to its mouth and claims all lands drained by the river for France.
- 1699 Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur D'Iberville, and his brother, Jean Baptiste, Sieur De Bienville, found first European settlement at Fort Maurepas, near Biloxi.

French Dominion, 1699-1763

- 1716 Fort Rosalie, the beginning of the town of Natchez, is established.
- 1729 French settlers at Fort Rosalie are massacred by Natchez Indians in an effort to drive Europeans from Mississippi.
- 1732 The French retaliate for the massacre at Fort Rosalie. The Natchez Indians cease to exist as a tribe.
- 1736 Bienville battles Chickasaw Indians in present day Lee County. He is defeated at the battle of Ackia.

English Dominion, 1763-1779

- 1763 Mississippi, along with all French territory east of the Mississippi River, passes into English control at the end of the French and Indian War.



Spanish Dominion, 1779-1798

- 1779 Bernardo Galvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, captures Natchez.
- 1781-1783 Under provisions of the Treaty of Paris, West Florida, which included the southern half of Mississippi, comes under Spanish control. America gains possession of Mississippi north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel.
- 1797 Spain yields to America all land in Mississippi north of the 31st parallel, giving America control of Natchez.

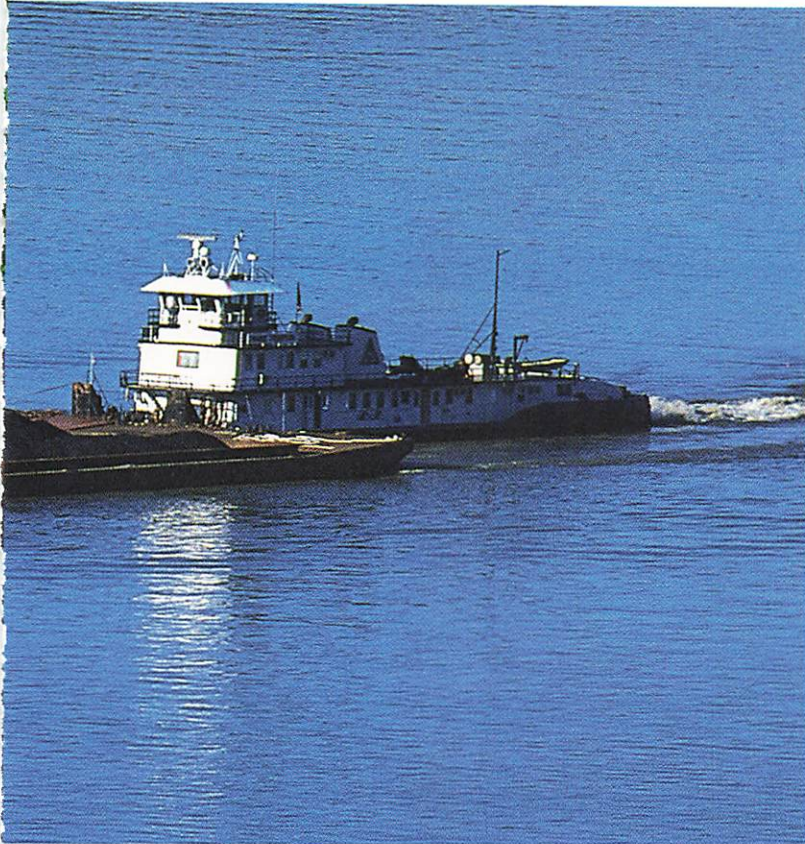


Mississippi Territory 1798-1817

- 1798 The Spanish withdrawal from Mississippi is completed. Mississippi is organized as an American territory, and the first territorial governor, Winthrop Sargent, is appointed by Thomas Jefferson.
- 1801 Mississippi advances to the second stage of territorial government.
- 1801-1802 A treaty with the Indians allows the Natchez Trace to be developed as a mail route and major road. Mississippi moves its territorial capital from Natchez to Washington, a small town near the Natchez Trace.
- 1803 The Louisiana Purchase opens the Mississippi River for commerce.
- 1805 By the Treaty of Mount Dexter, the Choctaws sell 4.5 million acres of land to the U.S. government. The area includes the Piney Woods region of the state.
- 1810 West Florida rebellion gives the United States control of Spanish West Florida.
- 1812 The War of 1812 begins. Mississippi gains West Florida territory east of the Pearl River and south to the Gulf of Mexico.
- 1814-1815 The War of 1812 ends.
- 1816 The Treaty of Fort Stephens with the Choctaws opens the area around the Tombigbee Prairie for settlement.

State of Mississippi, 1817

- An act of Congress of December 10, 1817, admitted Mississippi to the Union, as the twentieth state. Indian lands in Mississippi were opened to white settlement after six major treaties with the Choctaws and Chickasaws between 1805 and 1834. On January 9, 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union. More than 80,000 Mississippians served in the Confederate States Army. After the fall of the Confederacy and a period of Reconstruction, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union in 1870.
- 1817 The Mississippi territory is divided. The western half becomes the twentieth state, Mississippi.
 - 1818 Elizabeth Female Academy is founded in Washington, the first girls' school chartered by the state and one of America's first women's colleges.
 - 1820 The Treaty of Doak's Stand, the second Choctaw cession.
 - 1821 Mississippi's first public school is opened in Columbus.
 - 1822 The state capital is moved to Jackson. Built on the site of Lefleur's Bluff, Jackson was one of the first planned cities in the nation. It was named for Major General Andrew Jackson.
 - 1826 Mississippi College, then Hampstead Academy, is established.



1830 The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek cedes all Choctaw territory east of the Mississippi River to the U.S. Government. Most of the Choctaws leave the state.

1832 The Treaty of Pontotoc Creek cedes north Mississippi Indian territory to the U.S. Government. The Chickasaws leave the state for Oklahoma.

The Mississippi Constitutional Convention produces the Constitution of 1832.

1842 Governor Tilghman M. Tucker becomes the state's first chief executive to occupy the newly completed Governor's Mansion, still used today.

1844 The University of Mississippi is established.

1848 State government assumes operation of a private school for the blind. It becomes the Mississippi School for the Blind, the nation's first state-supported institution for the handicapped.

1850 The U.S. Congress gives the state title to more than 3 million acres of swamp and overflow land. By this time, 310 miles of levees have been built along the banks of the Mississippi River. The Delta is drained, cleared, and becomes available for cultivation.

The Compromise of 1850 contains slavery to the South.

1854 Mississippi Institute for the Deaf and Dumb opens in Jackson.

Henry Hughes of Port Gibson publishes *Treatise on Sociology*, which later earns him the title "first American sociologist."

1861 Mississippi secedes from the Union on January 9. In July, Ship Island is captured by Union forces. The fall of Ship Island gives Union forces control of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

1862 In late April, the Battle of Shiloh gives Union forces control of the Tennessee River and opens the way to attack Corinth, a railroad center vital to the South. Corinth falls in May.

1863 The Emancipation Proclamation abolishes slavery.

After a year long siege, Vicksburg falls on July 4, and Union forces gain total control of the Mississippi River. The Confederate forces are defeated the same day at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

1865 Robert E. Lee surrenders on April 9. The Civil War ends.

1867 A military government is established in Mississippi after the reconstructed government of Mississippi is rejected by the U.S. Congress.

- 1868 Mississippi's first biracial constitutional convention—the "Black and Tan Convention"—drafts a constitution protecting the rights of freedmen (ex-slaves) and punishing ex-Confederates. It is rejected by the voters.
- 1869 Under the leadership of James L. Alcorn, Mississippi ratifies a constitution which does not punish ex-Confederate soldiers.
- 1870 Mississippi is readmitted to the Union on February 23. Civil government is gradually restored under Governor Alcorn.
The state's first system of public education is established.
Senator Hiram R. Revels, a minister from Natchez, becomes the first black senator in U.S. history, and serves as Mississippi's U.S. Senator from January 1870 to March 1871.
- 1871 Alcorn University, now Alcorn State University, is organized.
- 1877 The Mississippi State Board of Health is created through the influence of the State Medical Association.
Jackson College, a private college for blacks, is established at Natchez.
- 1878 Agricultural and Technical School established. In 1935, it becomes Mississippi State College and in 1958, Mississippi State University.
- 1884 The Industrial Institute and College, today's Mississippi University for Women, is established.
- 1890 A new state constitution is adopted.
- 1892 Millsaps College is opened.
- 1903 A new capitol building, constructed at a cost of \$1 million, is dedicated in Jackson.
- 1907 The boll weevil arrives in Mississippi, destroying most of the state's cotton crop.
William H. Smith organizes the first of the state's "Corn Clubs," which leads to the formation of the 4-H Clubs of America.
- 1908 Mississippi adopts statewide prohibition.
- 1909 Dr. Laurence C. Jones founds the Piney Woods Country Life School for the vocational and secondary education of black students.
- 1910 Mississippi Normal College, now the University of Southern Mississippi, is organized.
- 1916 The Mississippi State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis is established.
Governor Theodore Bilbo establishes the state's first Highway Commission.
- 1922 The State Legislature authorizes a system of junior colleges, the first in the nation.
- 1923 Two women, Senator Belle Kearny and Representative Nellie Nugent, are elected to the State Legislature.
- 1924 Delta State Teachers' College, now Delta State University, is established.
- 1927 The Mississippi River floods 2,722,000 acres in the Delta. Thousands are left homeless.
- 1929 The Depression begins.
- 1932 The state's first sales tax becomes effective.
The Natchez Pilgrimage, a nationally-famous tour of that area's antebellum homes, becomes an annual event.
- 1936 The State Legislature passes an amendment to balance agriculture with industry (BAWI Program). The Industrial Commission and the Advertising Commission are created to implement the program, which includes adoption of the nation's first industrial revenue bond.
- 1939 The state's first oil well is brought in near Tinsley, in Yazoo County.
- 1940 Jackson College, having earlier moved from Natchez to Jackson, becomes a state institution.
- 1941-1945 World War II promotes an industrial boom in the state.
- 1946 Mississippi Vocational College, now Mississippi Valley State University, is established.



- 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court's landmark decision that separate but equal facilities are unconstitutional, lays groundwork for desegregation.
- 1962 James Meredith, the first black registrant, enters the University of Mississippi, signaling the beginning of the end to segregation in the state's public universities and colleges.
- 1963 Medgar Evers, field secretary for the NAACP, is assassinated, focusing public awareness on the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement.
- 1964 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, outlawing segregation in public places.
- 1965 Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr., announces that the BAWI Program has achieved its goal.
- 1968 Circuit Court Judge O. H. Barnett rules that Choctaw Indians are subject to their tribal laws, a reversal of an 1830s ruling that abolished tribal government.
- Representative Robert Clark, the first black elected to the State Legislature in modern times, begins serving his first term in the Mississippi House of Representatives.
- 1969 Unitary system of public education is mandated by federal courts, bringing an end to segregation in public schools.
- Hurricane Camille wreaks havoc upon Mississippi's Gulf Coast and areas inland.
- 1970 Mississippi Authority for Educational Television is established and begins broadcasting.
- U.S. Navy awards Ingalls Shipyard contracts with a total value of \$2 billion.
- 1972 Work begins on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
- Governor William Waller's administration aggressively involves blacks and women in government through key Cabinet, Board and Judicial appointments.
- 1976 Governor Cliff Finch calls a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of restructuring the state's savings and loan associations, averting a financial crisis in the state.
- Governor Finch succeeds in reuniting the long-separated Loyalist and Regular factions of the Mississippi Democratic Party, reestablishing the national two-party system in the state.
- 1978 After 36 years of service, U.S. Senator James O. Eastland retires.
- Sixteenth Section Lands and Lieu Lands Act transfers control of Sixteenth Section Lands from county Boards of Supervisors to local Boards of Education and requires fair-market rental value on those lands.
- 1979 Mattie T. Consent Decree initiates procedures providing equal education for handicapped children in the state's public schools.



- After three days of heavy rains, a devastating flood inundates the city of Jackson and many towns south along the Pearl River.
- 1982 Governor William F. Winter calls a special legislative session, resulting in adoption of the historic Education Reform Act, the pioneer of the nationwide school reform movement.
- Jackson hosts the International Ballet Competition.
- Tornadoes cause \$30 million in damage to Water Valley.
- 1983 Judge Lenore Prather becomes the first woman State Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi.
- 1984 Public Radio in Mississippi goes on the air.
- Governor Bill Allain implements a massive program of governmental reorganization.
- 1985 Judge Reuben Anderson becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice in Mississippi.
- Governor Bill Allain appoints a 350-member constitutional study committee to begin the process of Mississippi constitutional reform.
- 1986 The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is completed.
- Jackson hosts the International Ballet Competition.
- Yazoo City lawyer Mike Espy is elected to the U.S. House and becomes the first black congressman from Mississippi since Reconstruction.
- Mississippi votes to end its constitutional ban on gubernatorial succession.
- 1987 Senator John C. Stennis, the dean of U.S. Senators with 40 years of service, announces he will not seek re-election.
- At 39, Democrat Ray Mabus is elected the nation's youngest governor.



**MISSISSIPPI
IN CHANGING
TIMES**

Mississippi in Changing Times

In 1965, Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr., held a brief ceremony and press conference in his office to announce that Mississippi's nonagricultural employment was greater than its agricultural employment for the first time in its history. This achievement was the result of an extensive program of industrial development that has changed the face of Mississippi and changed the lives of all its people.

In 1900, Mississippi was very much an agricultural society. Fifty-six percent of our land was being farmed, and 75 percent of our population worked on some 115,000 farms scattered across Mississippi. Cotton was still king of Mississippi's economy, and it was planted, cultivated, and harvested just as it had been for a hundred years—largely by hand.

But hard changes were coming for Mississippi farmers. World War I created a demand for cotton, and farmers invested heavily to develop their farms. At the end of World War I, demand declined sharply. The price of cotton dropped 75 percent from 38.5 cents a pound in April of 1920 to 9.8 cents a pound, only a year later. Farmers who previously could not grow enough cotton, now could not raise enough to pay their debts.

In addition to poor prices, farmers of the 1920s were faced with crop failure, abnormally wet weather, and boll weevils, an insect whose larvae feed on cotton bolls. Mississippi's agriculture was so devastated that by the end of the 1920s, only 30 percent of all Mississippi farmers owned their land. Of the remainder, 5 percent were renters and 65 percent were sharecroppers. The 1929 Depression signaled the end of Mississippi's reliance on a totally agricultural economy.

The Development of Business and Industry

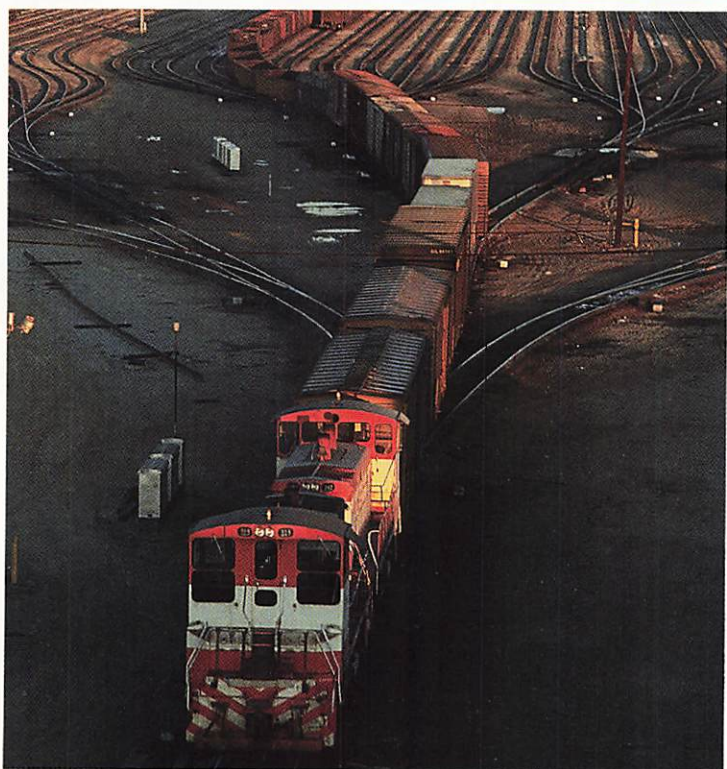
The 1930s brought economic reforms which began a period of industrialization that continues today. Governor Mike Connor instituted the state's first sales tax and established a program of economic reform that enabled the state to pay off a \$12-million deficit in four years. By the time Governor Connor left office, there was a \$3-million surplus in the formerly bankrupt treasury. Governor Connor's successor, Hugh White, instituted the BAWI (Balance Agriculture with Industry) Program. This revolutionary program proposed attracting industry to Mississippi by offering, among other incentives, a ten-year tax exemption to new companies coming to Mississippi. In addition, industries could finance the building of their facilities through local bond issues.

The BAWI Program had an immediate effect on the state's ailing economy, and between 1936 and 1940, 12 new plants were built. However, the BAWI

Program's greatest successes were long range. In 1938, Ingalls Shipyard came to Pascagoula. Ingalls prospered during World War II and the post-war boom until it became the state's largest employer in the 1970s, providing jobs for thousands of Mississippians. The success of Ingalls Shipyard fostered the development of shipbuilding industries in the Mississippi River ports of Natchez, Vicksburg, and Greenville, and promoted the development of these cities as ports.

Mississippi entered a boom period during World War II. Ordnance plants were established at Flora and Prairie, and military training bases sprang up all over Mississippi. Keesler Air Force Base (then the largest base in the United States) was established at Biloxi, and Camp Shelby was built near Hattiesburg. Manufacturing plants were built across Mississippi in response to wartime need. By the end of the war, over 25,000 new jobs had been created, and by 1947, manufacturing in the state had increased by 61 percent.





In the post-war period, Mississippi continued its industrial development. In the small towns and communities, canneries, dairies, garment plants, and small factories were built, seemingly overnight. The wood products industry emerged as a major force in Mississippi's economy as second-growth timber provided the raw materials for paper mills at Natchez and Moss Point and for fiberboard factories at Greenwood and Laurel. At Hattiesburg and Picayune, plants were established to extract resin and turpentine from the pine stumps left by the Piney Woods lumber boom.

Many other industries came to Mississippi. To the north, in Tupelo, Columbus, and Corinth, cheap TVA electricity and a plentiful labor force brought about major growth in industrial development. The extent of this development can be seen in Tupelo, where over 200 furniture manufacturers are located within a 50-mile radius of the city, or in Corinth, where in 1957 ITT Telecom established a plant which today employs more than 1,800 people.

A look at Mississippi's economic growth shows the extent of industrial development. In 1936, only 40,000 people held industry-related jobs. By 1962, that figure had reached 140,000. Between 1962 and 1964 alone, 40,000 new jobs came to Mississippi. Personal income rose 59 percent during the decade of the 1950s, and expenditures for new manufacturing plants and equipment more than doubled.

The pattern of industrial growth continued through the 1960s and 1970s as Mississippi's reputation for having an ideal climate for business and industry became firmly established. Mississippi is the only state consistently ranked among the nation's top ten states with the most favorable business climate, and Mississippi's aggressive policies for attracting new industries have harvested significant results. Between 1970 and 1980, the yearly averages for companies and industries moving to Mississippi are impressive—over 100 industries bringing 8,800 new jobs a year and representing a capital investment of nearly \$522 million. The expansion of existing industries during that same period is also impressive—a yearly average of 252 businesses and industries expanded to create 7,620 jobs while representing a capital investment of \$383 million.

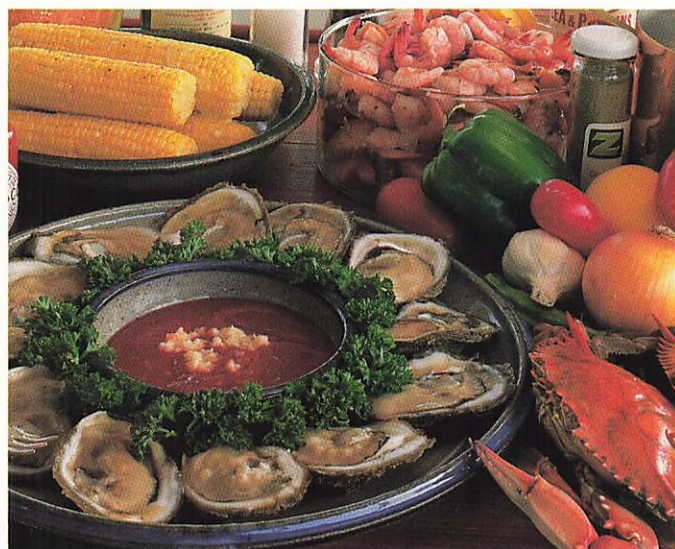
Much of the development of Mississippi is a result of its advantageous location and its transportation system. Mississippi is in the heart of the Sunbelt, one of the most rapidly growing areas of the country. Within 400 miles of Mississippi are important commercial shipping and industrial centers—Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta—and a growing market population in the tens of millions.

Mississippi is served by 17 railroads using over 3,000 miles of track. Mississippi's highway systems include 14 federal highways and 678 miles of five separate interstates. There are 77 airports in Mississippi, and ten of these provide passenger service to cities throughout the Southeast.

Mississippi, however, is best known for its system of water transportation. Along our 410 miles of the Mississippi River are four ports—Rosedale, Greenville, Vicksburg, and Natchez. Two of these ports—Greenville and Vicksburg—are U.S. Customs Ports of Entry. On the coast, Mississippi has deep water ports at Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula, and Port Bienville. Mississippi's newest access to inland water transportation, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, was dedicated on June 1, 1985. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway connects east Mississippi industries with 1,600 miles of inland waterways and to the deep water ports of the Gulf of Mexico, and it provides additional sites for industrial development along its banks.



This kind of growth underscores Mississippi's success in attracting industries. Many industries have come to Mississippi finding much more than a place to work. They have found a home, a community, and a lifestyle. From our port cities inland—through the small towns that have grown with the factories and the plants they host, through the prospering cities of Columbus, Meridian, Tupelo, and Hattiesburg, to the heartland capital of Jackson, center of state government and commerce, Mississippi industries and facilities are changing our present lives and helping to shape our economic futures.



What has made Mississippi grow is not what we have been given, but what we have to offer—room to grow, hard work, and the vision and courage to create. It is not surprising, then, that Mississippi's home-grown industries thrive and are a tribute to the people who built them, the state that is their home, and the spirit and dedication that took an idea, a hope, a dream and created a living reality. Two such Mississippi companies are National Microtech of Grenada and the Peavey Electronics Corporation of Meridian.

National Microtech had its origin in the 1979 deregulation of the use of satellite dishes by the general public. When three Grenada businessmen tried to buy a dish, they found that no one outlet was selling the complete system and no one was selling satellite dishes already assembled. The three men quickly incorporated as National Microtech and marketed the first such satellite dishes available on the market. By 1982, National Microtech's sales were \$14 million, and a small Mississippi business had marketed a product that has totally changed America's way of life.

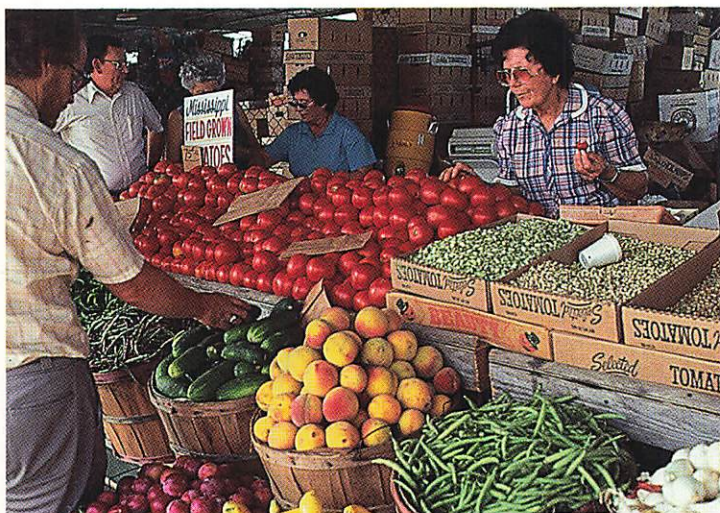
Perhaps Mississippi's best-known home grown industry is the Peavey Electronics Corporation. Started in 1965 in Hartley Peavey's garage, the company now exports musical instruments, amplifiers, and equipment to over 92 countries and is the largest manufacturer of such equipment in the world. Peavey has plants in Morton, Meridian, and Decatur and employs approximately 1,200 people. Recently, an audio-media lab was established by the company to develop new products and to conduct research. Annual sales approach \$100 million.

When we look at Mississippi's economic development, several important points emerge. Mississippi has developed continually since 1936. We have attracted top national companies and have started highly successful industries of our own. Most importantly, we have grown because we have *believed* that we can grow, that we can build a better life in Mississippi. We have been aggressive in our growth and in seeking new opportunities for growth.

Our efforts have been amply rewarded.

Agriculture

The hard years of the 1920s and 1930s taught Mississippi farmers the recklessness of relying on one crop, cotton, for their living. Our farmers began to diversify their crops, and Mississippi's agricultural economic base broadened. Soybeans, which require less cultivation than cotton, became an important crop, as did corn, wheat, rice, fruits, watermelons, hay, and sweet potatoes. In addition, beef and dairy cattle became important new sources of income. Farmlands were turned into pasture lands, and by 1939 Mississippi was fifth in the nation in cattle production. Poultry began to be raised commercially and grew as an agri-business until 1970, when Mississippi became number one in the nation for broiler production.



In addition to growing more crops, Mississippi farmers were learning to grow better crops. Research conducted at Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Mississippi State University) developed new and better farming methods. To further research, the state developed agricultural experiment stations in each of the different soil areas around the state. These stations developed new fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid seeds, and better and stronger breeds of livestock and conducted experiments in erosion control and other agricultural techniques. Through improved methods, better seeds and livestock, and a wider economic base, the lot of the Mississippi farmer improved.

Mechanization brought a revolution to Mississippi agriculture. World War II created a demand that made farm machinery a necessity. More land could be cultivated and more crops raised with fewer people. The process of mechanization continued after the war. As ex-GIs returned to their Mississippi farms, they brought with them a desire to update and mechanize their farms.

Though today's Mississippi farmers make up only 4 percent of our work force, their efforts rank Mississippi as one of the nation's top-ten producers of cotton, rice, sorghum, sweet potatoes, pecans, soybeans, and broilers. Our farmers are also leading producers of wheat, peaches, hay, corn, eggs, beef and dairy cattle, and hogs.

It is truly amazing that so much is produced by such a small segment of our society. But "amazing" is perhaps the only word that describes the modern farmer. Today's farmer must be scientist, mechanic, chemist, businessman, botanist, economist, meteorologist, computer technician, and truck driver to produce the abundance of crops and livestock that has secured Mississippi's agricultural reputation.

Our farmers have faced hard times, bad years, and low prices. They have accepted the challenges of these hard times as their fathers and grandfathers did, for the Mississippi farmer, perhaps better than anyone else in the state, understands the bond that Mississippians feel for their land.

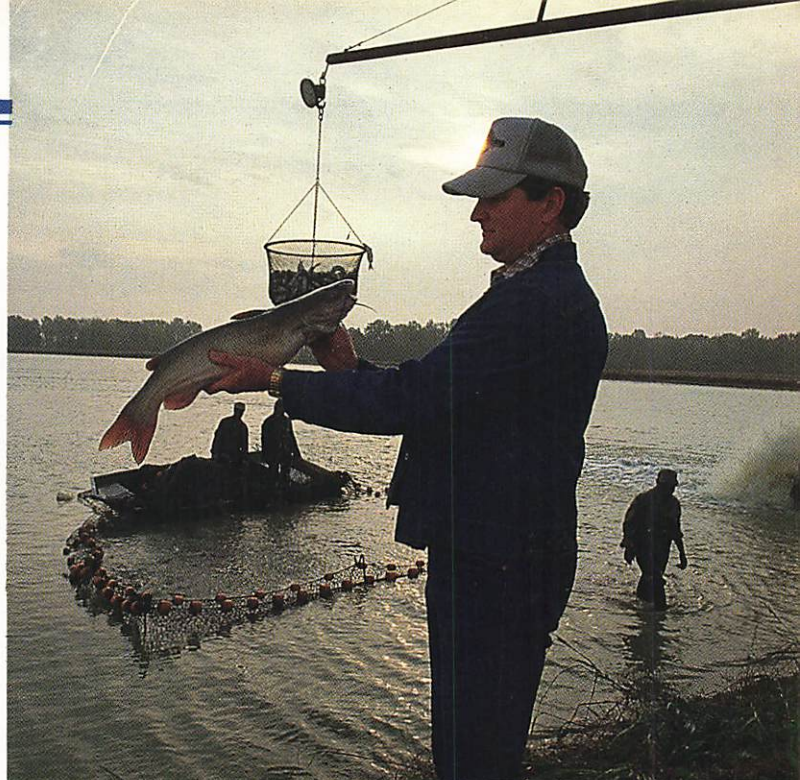
Now the progressive, innovative spirit of Mississippi farmers once again has served them well and broadened our state's economic base. New crops and new innovations have created a market for products long enjoyed in Mississippi and the Deep South and now enjoyed across the nation and around the world.

Mississippi ranks number one in the world in the production of catfish. Once only a Deep South favorite, the taste for grain-fed, pond-raised catfish has spread worldwide. The reception and popularity of Mississippi catfish have caused an incredibly rapid development in their production and processing. In September of 1985, 33 percent more catfish had been processed and sold by Mississippi catfish farmers than in the same period of the year before. By the end of 1985, catfish production had grown 368 percent over a five-year period—from 40,636,000 pounds to 191,930,000 pounds.

The growth in catfish production mirrors the development of modern processing. State-of-the-art plants capable of processing 1.7 million pounds of catfish a week are now operating in Indianola. In Indianola and nearby Isola, feed plants have been established to process wheat, milo, corn, fish meal, and fish oil into a rich catfish feed with a 32 percent protein level. Those two plants are capable of producing 30,000 tons of catfish feed in a year.

The response to the "new" catfish has been enthusiastic nationwide. Nationwide chains have found catfish to be the most welcome addition to their menus in years. Other restaurants from New York to California report using as much as 500 pounds of catfish a week.

Farm-raised catfish is the most important agribusiness to be developed in America in many years. The heart of the development—as well as over 70 percent of the production and processing—takes place right here in Mississippi.



National attention has also been focused on another long-time favorite Mississippi crop—the muscadine grape. Muscadines have become increasingly popular, and muscadine vineyards, such as the McInnis Vineyards, Wendell Rushing Farms, Boyne Coats Farms, and Almarla Vineyards, have watched the popularity and demand for the muscadines increase steadily.

Two muscadine vineyards in Mississippi have attracted special attention—the Rushing Vineyard and the Broadhead Vineyard.

The Rushing Vineyard in Merigold, Mississippi, is the home of Winery Rushing, Mississippi's first winery since Prohibition. Since its establishment in 1977, Rushing wines have won awards for excellence in national and international competitions. Rushing wines earned further distinction on October 1, 1984, when the federal government declared the Delta an official viticultural area, an area especially recognized for the production and cultivation of a special breed of grape. In addition to wines, the Rushing Vineyards also markets several muscadine juice products.

The Broadhead Vineyard, a 571-acre vineyard in Clarke County, represents the most extensive effort yet to turn Mississippi's favorite grape into Mississippi's newest cash crop. Paul Broadhead emphasizes that in coming years the muscadine will be a bigger cash crop for Mississippi farmers than the catfish is now. Broadhead is spreading his enthusiasm and encouraging farmers to see muscadines as a profitable alternative crop. In addition, Southeastern Specialty Foods, a Broadhead company, now operates a plant in Jones County for the processing and manufacturing of muscadine juice and juice products.

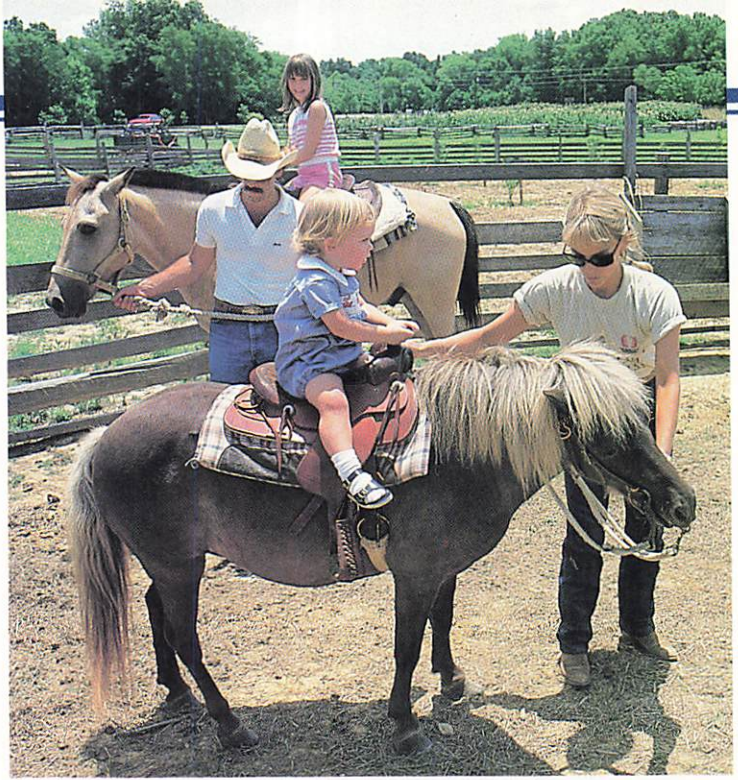
Mississippi's agriculture has developed from the small "40 acres and a mule" family farm to a modern, highly complex business. Yet the spirit of the Mississippi farmer has remained the same. It is that spirit of determination, of enterprise, and of dedication to hard work that ensures the continued growth and diversification of Mississippi's business of agriculture.

Forestry

Mississippi has approximately 17 million acres of forest. In fact, nearly 56 percent of our state's land area is covered by dense, rich woods owned predominantly by private citizens.

The abundance of our forests has been an important source of income for Mississippians. In past years, one out of every four workers in the state was involved in a lumber or lumber-related industry. These industries continue to grow and to provide employment for thousands of Mississippi workers.

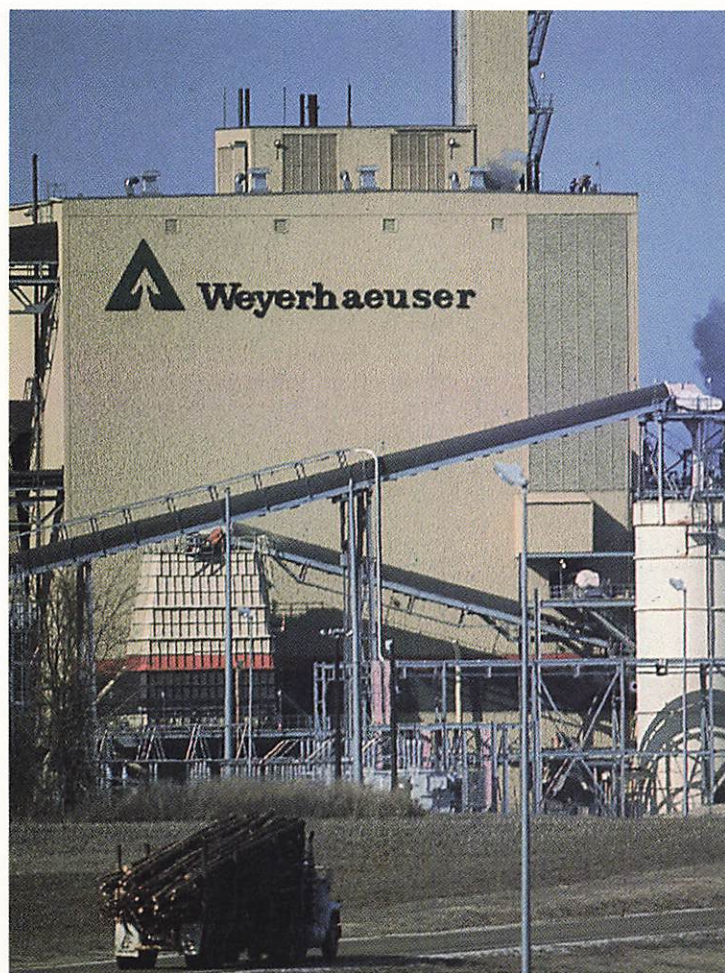
Mississippi forests are our most valuable natural resource—a living, breathing tribute to a massive replanting and conservation program. The boom in the lumber industry in the first three decades of this century removed 70 billion board feet of timber from our state and left behind a desert of stumps and rapidly eroding land. To prevent the absolute



destruction of our forests, the Mississippi Forestry Commission was formed in 1926. With the support of the people of Mississippi, the Forestry Commission began the task of transforming bare, blackened, non-productive forest areas into green productive lands with stabilized soil and a more sound economic potential. Decades later, Mississippi forests are among the most prosperous and well-maintained in our nation.

We have come to recognize our forests as a gift, and we've learned to give back to the land what we take from it. Mississippi is a national leader in tree farming. The first hand-planted tree plantation was established in 1926 on the Sam Byrd Plantation in Jackson County, and since that time we have planted thousands of acres of trees and are reaping the benefits in millions of dollars of income annually. Our state leads the nation in the number of trees produced per acre, and we are among the most prolific timber-producing states east of the Mississippi.

But more than any economic benefit, our forests tell us of the earth's renewal, and in their depths we ourselves are renewed. We hunt, we camp, we watch nature's masterpieces within the living framework that is the forest. In their shadows we are reminded of the give-and-take that is nature and of our responsibility to maintain that ongoing natural balance.



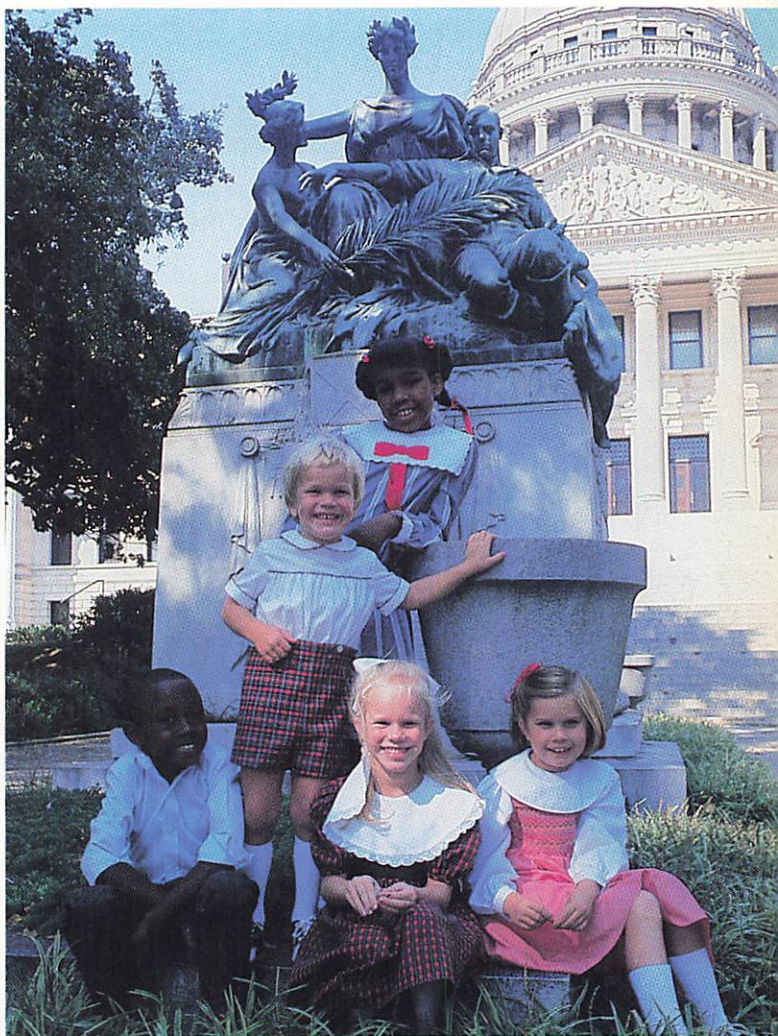
Education

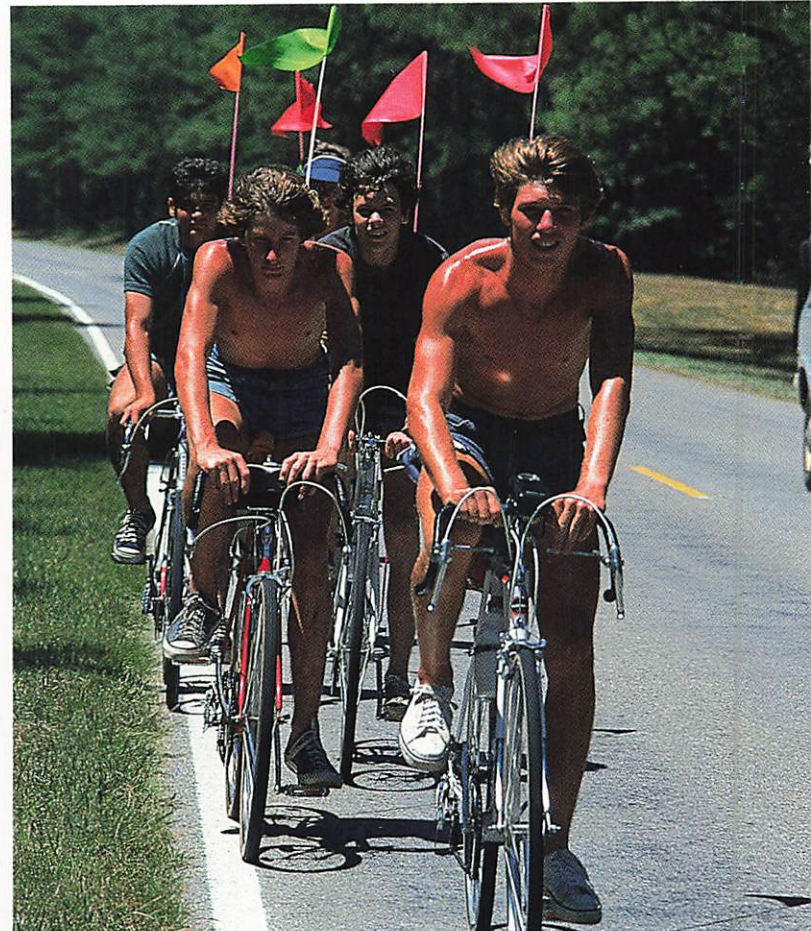
As Mississippi has grown, so has its educational needs. We recognize that if we are unprepared to educate our children, no amount of growth, hard work, or planning will safeguard Mississippi's future development.

Early in this decade, state leaders undertook the challenge of reorganizing Mississippi's educational system to maximize educational funding and to establish the educational standards that will promise Mississippi's children a better tomorrow. The result of that effort, led by Governor William F. Winter, was the historic Education Reform Act of 1982, a multi-faceted program calling for a restructuring of the State Board of Education and of Mississippi's school systems. Since its passage, the Education Reform Act has become a model for educational reform throughout the nation.

Among the provisions of the Education Reform Act are:

- A new performance-based system of school accreditation.
- New standards for the certification of teachers.
- The development and administration of programs to prevent dropouts.





- The establishment of programs to train local school officials further in administrative and management skills.
- The establishment of a five-year plan for the improvement of public school systems.
- Higher graduation standards, including minimum performance standards in reading, writing, and mathematics; a basic skills test; and completion of a minimum number of academic credits.
- The establishment of a system of public kindergarten programs.
- Statewide student competency testing.

The Education Reform Act represents nothing less than a restructuring of Mississippi's educational system and a recommitment to the future education of our children and our state. However, Mississippi's commitment to public education is not new. It goes back well over 100 years, and many of Mississippi's achievements in the field of education have been historic: the nation's first state-supported school for the handicapped; the first coeducational college to grant degrees to women; the oldest land-grant college for blacks; the nation's first planned system of junior colleges; and the first state college for women. All of these landmarks are a result of Mississippi's dedication to education.

That same spirit of dedication began extensive reforms 70 years ago that changed the early shape of Mississippi's school systems. Between 1910 and 1920, the consolidation of many small rural schools upgraded the efficiency of teaching and increased

teachers' salaries. Public transportation was provided for students in rural areas—first, horse-drawn wagons and, in the 1920s, schoolbuses. Textbooks were standardized statewide to ensure a continuity of education and to reduce the prices that parents paid for textbooks.

Perhaps the most far-reaching change of that era was the establishment of rural agricultural high schools. As late as 1908, there were no high schools in some areas of Mississippi. In 1910, the state Legislature began promoting the development of agricultural high schools, and by 1918 there were agricultural high schools in over half the counties in Mississippi. Students were taught the basics of mathematics, social studies, and English in addition to modern developments in techniques in agriculture and home economics. Because some students had to commute great distances, the agricultural high schools established dormitory facilities. As the process of school consolidation continued, many agricultural high schools were discontinued. Others were authorized in 1924 to include freshman and sophomore years of college work.

In 1928, the Legislature authorized the establishment of junior colleges at those schools and provided that other school districts could unite in the establishment of junior colleges. That same year, the Junior College Commission was established as a controlling and regulatory agency for the new system of junior colleges.



Since that time, Mississippi's junior colleges have changed to meet the needs of the times. During World War II, their vocational and trade programs were expanded and updated to meet the wartime demand for workers. In the 1950s and 1960s, nursing education was added to many junior college curricula.

There are 15 junior colleges in Mississippi today represented by 34 centers across the state to ensure that all Mississippians have access to the advantages of a college-level education.

As the state's system of junior colleges was developing, major changes were taking place in the state's colleges and universities. In February 1932, the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning was established by the Mississippi Legislature. The Board was created to keep state-supported universities free of gubernatorial control. By an amendment of the Mississippi Constitution on November 3, 1943, governmental control of all state-supported colleges and universities was vested in the Board of Trustees.

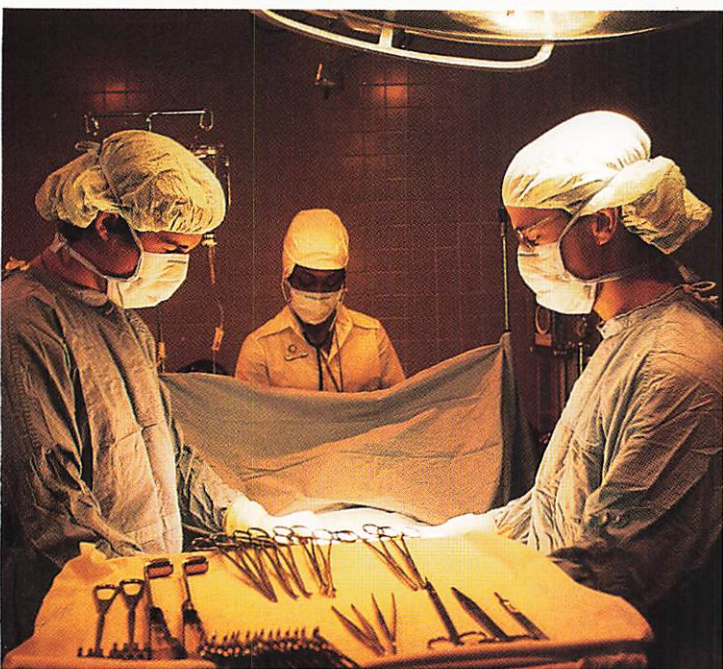
The Board of Trustees provides management and control of the public universities. Board members are appointed by the Governor but must be approved by the Senate. The Board itself consists of 13 members—one from each of the seven congressional districts as they existed in 1944, three representing Supreme Court Districts, two from the state-at-large, and one member from DeSoto County, the trustee of the La Bauve fund, who votes only on matters pertaining to the University of Mississippi.

The Board of Trustees as a governing and regulating body acts upon recommendations from ten standing committees—Agricultural and Forestry Committee; Athletic Committee; Buildings Committee; Finance Committee; Instruction, Administration and Policy Committee; Law School Committee; Legal Committee; Medical Affairs Committee; Research Committee; and Student Advisory Committee.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the curricula of degree-credit courses on eleven campuses, including eight public universities, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the Mississippi Research and Development Center, and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratories. In addition, the Board of Trustees maintains eight degree-granting off-campus centers, four resident centers, and extension classes across the state.

Mississippi's dedication to its schools has brought about sweeping reform. From our beginnings in isolated, one-room schoolhouses, we have built a system of modern education that has included innovations that have become national models. We established the nation's first network of junior colleges and have made sure that every Mississippian has been provided with opportunities for a higher education.

When the 1980s brought new challenges to public education, the leaders of Mississippi responded to the challenge with the Education Reform Act of 1982. Under its auspices, education in Mississippi will continue to thrive—as will our children; as will our future.





STATE GOVERNMENT

Mississippi state government has developed and matured as has the state's economy. State government is more than an institution centered around the Capitol complex in the capital city of Jackson. It is the highways and parks that we all use and enjoy—the schools and universities that educate our young people; and as such it plays an integral part in our development of a better way of life. State government is the provider of numerous services that bring meaning and order to our personal, legal, and business activities and contribute to our future development.

State government today is administered by a dedicated and professional corps of individuals working together with the common goal of serving the needs and desires of all citizens of Mississippi.

The demands placed on state government are great. To fulfill those demands as effectively and efficiently as possible, the state employs approximately 25,000 men and women in 167 different departments and agencies with a total budget of \$2 billion in fiscal year 1986.

The Mississippi Constitution separates the total powers of state government into three distinct departments—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. Each of these departments has a chief authority: the Governor, the Legislature, and the Supreme Court, respectively. The state Constitution however, states that "All political power is vested in, and derived from, the people; all government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole."

Executive Branch

The executive branch has the duty and responsibility of carrying out, or "executing," the governmental programs and policies established by law. The chief executive power of the state is vested in the Governor. The Governor serves a term of four years and may not succeed himself, though a constitutional amendment was passed during the 1986 legislative session which if approved by a majority of the voters in November 1986, will allow an additional term in office. The Governor must be at least thirty years of age, a United States citizen for twenty years, and a resident of the state for five years preceding the day of election.

In addition to the Governor, the Mississippi Constitution makes provision for a Lieutenant Governor, a Secretary of State, a State Auditor, a State Treasurer, and an Attorney General. The chief function of the Lieutenant Governor is to act as president of the Senate. The qualifications for Lieutenant Governor are the same as for Governor. The Secretary of State, the State Auditor, and the State Treasurer must be at least twenty-five years of age and a resident of the state for five years preceding the day of election. The Attorney General must be at least twenty-six years of age, a practicing attorney for five years, and a resident of the state for five years preceding the day of election.

The state Legislature has made provision by authority of the state Constitution for a Public Service Commission and a Highway Commission, both of which are made up of three commissioners, one elected from each of the state's Supreme Court districts. In addition, a Commissioner of Insurance and a Commissioner of Agriculture were authorized by the Legislature and are chief executive officers of their respective departments.

The qualifications for the Commissioner of Insurance and the Commissioner of Agriculture are the same as for the Secretary of State. Qualifications for Public Service Commissioners are also the same, with the additional requirement that they be resident electors of their Supreme Court districts. Highway Commissioners need only be resident electors of the Supreme Court districts from which they are elected.

All of the above officers are elected to four-year terms and may succeed themselves in office, with the exception of the state Treasurer, who may serve only one four-year term. However, as in the case of the Governor, a constitutional amendment is to be placed before the voters in November 1986, which would allow the Treasurer to succeed himself.

In addition to the elected executive officers mentioned, there are a number of officers appointed by the Governor. Among those are the Adjutant General, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the chief executive officers of the departments of Banking and Consumer Finance, Economic Development, and Natural Resources, and of the Tax Commission.

The Governor also appoints members to numerous executive and administrative boards and commissions who in turn appoint the executive officers of the departments that they govern. Some of those boards and departments are the Fiscal Management Board, Personnel Board, Department of Health, Department of Public Welfare, Department of Corrections, and Department of Education. The state Superintendent of Education, formerly an elected officer, is now appointed by the State Board of Education.

Governor

Ray Mabus

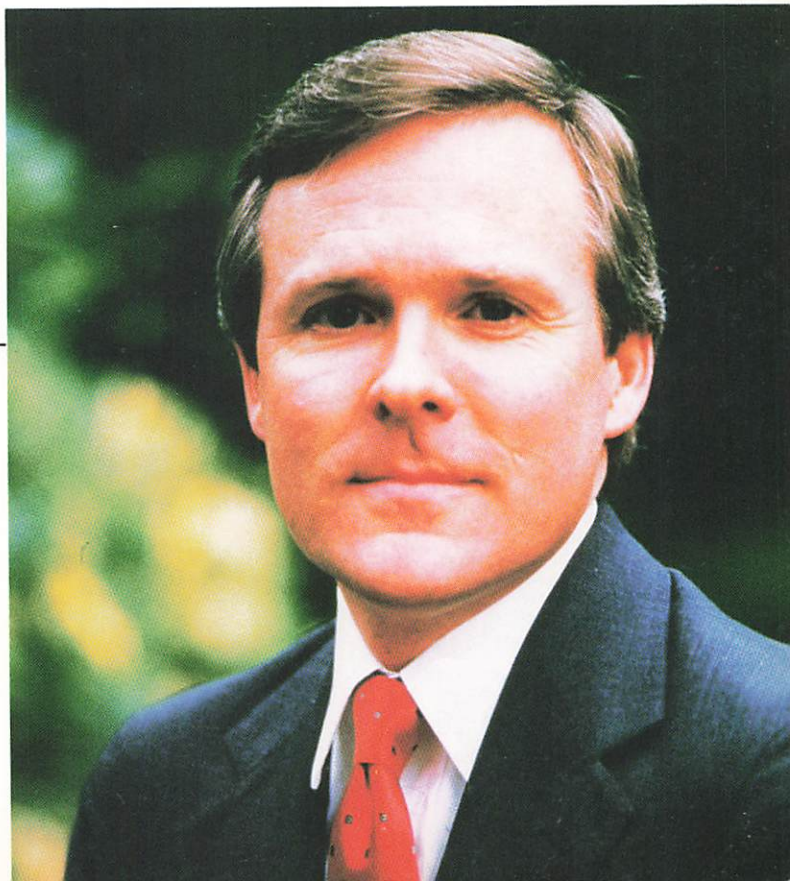
Duties:

The Governor is charged with executive direction and supervision of the general administration of the State. In this capacity, he is to see that the laws are faithfully executed, supervises the official conduct of executive officers, acts as commander-in-chief of the state militia, and appoints officials as prescribed by law.

He is responsible for the presentation of a balanced budget to the Legislature; and approval or

veto of legislation passed by the Legislature. He may call extraordinary sessions of the Legislature when he deems it necessary; and may issue pardons, executive orders, and extraditions of fugitives from other states.

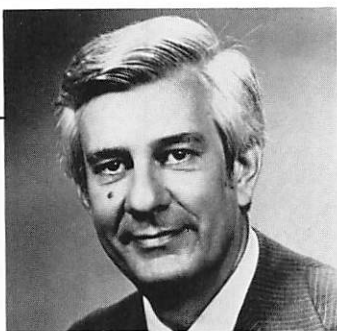
The office provides staff assistance and liaison in all areas of state government administration and researches agency programs and policies.



Lieutenant Governor

Duties:

Preside over the Senate, rule on points of order, nominate standing committees of Senate and appoint all select and conference committees as ordered by Senate. Member of Senate Rules Committee. Direct authority over officers and employees of Senate. Vote only in cases of ties and speak from the floor while Senate in Committee of the Whole. Signs all finally approved bills and resolutions.



Brad Dye

Attorney General

Duties:

The Attorney General is the chief legal officer and advisor for the State. His responsibility is twofold: to serve as lawyer for the State, its public officials and governmental agencies; and to issue legal opinions which interpret existing state law. The Attorney General has the sole power under Mississippi law to bring or defend a lawsuit on behalf of the State. He is also empowered to act as counsel to state agencies and to defend them or bring suit on their behalf, either in person or by his assistants.

Just as every attorney who represents a client, he has a duty to protect your interests. To help him fulfill this trust, he has a staff of attorneys, investigators and office personnel, chosen because of legal talents or other skills which enable them to serve the needs of the State. The major



Mike Moore

divisions and sections of this office are Consumer Protection, Medicaid Fraud Control, Civil Litigation, Opinion Processing, Governmental Affairs, Criminal Litigation, Organized Crime Investigation, and Public Interest Advocacy.

State Auditor

Duties:

The Mississippi State Constitution and state statutes give the State Auditor major responsibilities in the areas of maintaining the State's accounting system; pre-auditing all claims made against the State Treasury; issuing all checks; prescribing systems of accounting and financial reporting for state agencies and local governments; auditing all state agencies, county governments, county school districts, junior colleges, and universities; conducting investigations into abuse of public funds and violations of law; conducting inventory audits of all state property and maintaining the inventory of all state property; and performing average daily attendance (ADA) counts in the State's public schools.

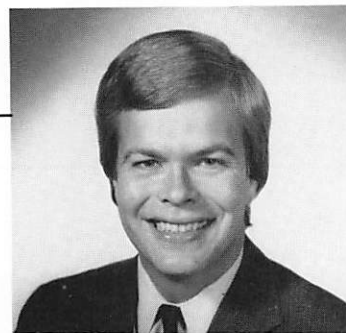


Pete Johnson

Secretary of State

Duties:

The Office of the Secretary of State is a multi-faceted service and information agency. It has six major statutory functions which include administering the Mississippi Business Corporation Law; the Uniform Commercial Code; the Uniform Securities Law; supervision of sixteenth section and other public lands; elections; and issuing documents and publications of the State executive and legislative branches. Other duties include administering Mississippi's trademark and servicemark laws; notary commissions; service of process; correspondence schools; administrative procedures; and various ceremonial functions.

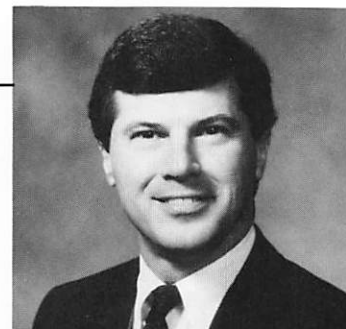


Dick Molpus

State Treasurer

Duties:

The Treasury Department keeps fiscal records concerning receipts, deposits, and disbursements of all public funds of the State, including federal funds, that are deposited into the State Treasury. This office maintains official and current records of the Mississippi bonded indebtedness and is responsible for making all payments of principal and interest due on said bonds. This office also invests state funds which are in excess of operating requirements and maintains accounts adequate to pay the State warrants and serves as custodian for securities which are held by the State for other state agencies. The agency has recently begun maintenance of the Unclaimed Property Program.

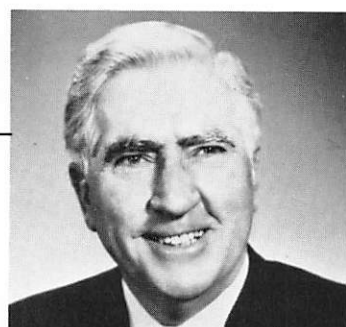


Marshall Bennett

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce

Duties:

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce was created in 1906 to foster and promote the business of agriculture. In 1919, the Land Grant Colleges, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the State Department of Agriculture and Commerce entered into an agreement as to the roles of each within the agricultural community. It was agreed that the Land Grant Colleges would confine their activities to extension, teaching and experimental work, and all regulatory and related duties would be administered by the State Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Based on this agreement the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce performs regulatory functions in the areas of meat inspection, feed and fertilizer



Jim Buck Ross

inspection, fruit and vegetable inspection, swine health protection, consumer protection, exotic birds, weights and measures and public grain warehouses. The Department distributes market information and agricultural statistics through its Market News Service, operates a seed laboratory which performs seed analyses, and provides promotional services for catfish and other agricultural crops produced within the State.

Commissioner of Insurance

Duties:

The Insurance Department is charged by Section 83-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972 with execution of all laws relative to all insurance companies, corporations, associations, or orders and their agents and adjusters. In performance of this charge, the Insurance Department licenses and regulates practices of all



George Dale

insurance companies, burial associations, fraternal societies, and associations of all types, including motor clubs, ball bondsmen, and their agents, agencies and adjusters. In recent years, the Insurance Commissioner has also been charged with licensing of manufacturers and dealers of mobile homes and regulating practices of same, including inspection of their manufacturing techniques and standards; and enforcing the L.C. gas inspection program. The 1978 Legislature enacted a standard fire code

which is administered by the Commissioner of Insurance through the facilities of the fire marshal division of the agency. The Insurance Commissioner also serves as State Fire Marshal and Chairman of the State Fire Fighters School, as well as serving as Ex-Officio Chairman of the Insurance Commission.

Highway Commission

Duties:

The State Highway Commission has the authority and responsibility for the control and supervision of the state highway system and acts under the rules and regulations spread upon its minutes. The Highway Commission appoints the Director of the State Highway Department.

The State Highway Department has full and general supervision

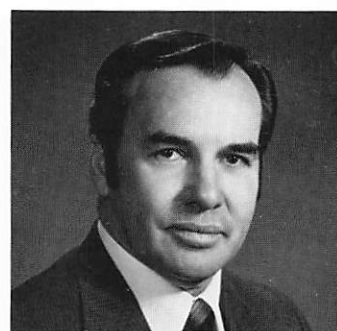
over all matters relating to the construction or maintenance of all highways, rest areas, and welcome centers on the State Designated Highway System. The Department also has the responsibility of working with certain colleges, universities, junior colleges and other state agencies for the construction and maintenance of driveways and streets.



Sam W. Waggoner
Central District (1)



Bob Joiner
Southern District (2)



Zack Stewart
Northern District (3)

Public Service Commission

Duties:

At the present time all for-hire transportation, communication, electric, gas, water and sewer utilities are under the supervision and regulations of this Commission. It is the Commission's responsibility to see that rates and charges for service are just and reasonable, that the approved rate schedules

are adhered to, that the service rendered is reasonably adequate, and that the facilities constructed or acquired are required for the convenience and necessity of the public. In carrying out its responsibility, the Commission must answer complaints, make investigations, and conduct both formal and informal hearings.



Nielsen Cochran
Central District (1)



Lynn Havens
Southern District (2)



D. W. Snyder
Northern District (3)

Legislative Branch

The Constitution places the legislative authority of Mississippi in a Legislature made up of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The membership is presently limited to 52 Senators and 122 Representatives.

The Legislature is the law-making body of state government. A constitutional provision that no money can be spent from the state's treasury unless the Legislature passes a law to do so is the basis of the Legislature's "power of the purse." The sole power of impeachment is vested in the House of Representatives, with the power to try impeachments vested in the Senate.

A state Representative must be at least twenty-one years of age, and a state Senator at least twenty-five years of age at the time he or she takes office. The other qualifications for the office of Representative are: resident citizen of the state for four years and of the county for two years immediately preceding the election and a qualified elector of the state. The other qualifications for the office of Senator are: resident of the district to be represented for two years and a qualified elector of the state for four years.

Representatives and Senators are elected to four-year terms. The terms of all Legislators expire every four years.

The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, a state Representative who is elected to the position by House members. The Senate's presiding officer is the Lieutenant Governor, who is the president of the Senate.

Legislators are administered an oath of office on the first day of the regular session of the year following their election. The Constitution requires the Legislature to convene yearly on the Tuesday after the first Monday in January.

During each regular session, the Legislature can be expected to send more than 500 bills to the Governor to be signed into law. Frequently, more than one-fourth of those are money bills (appropriations) to finance state government. As many as four to five times the number of bills that actually become laws will have been introduced for legislative consideration during each year.

The Constitution stipulates that bills may originate in either chamber of the Legislature and empowers each chamber to determine its own rules of procedure, except that each is prohibited from adjourning for more than three days without the consent of the other or from adjourning to another place other than where the two chambers are sitting.

Presently each body adopts its own rules; joint rules are also adopted to govern legislative procedures that affect the orderly flow of bills between the two houses. Legislative sessions last 90 days each year except during the first year of a new term when they last 125 days. The Governor may call a special session should he deem it necessary. The periods between legislative sessions are devoted to legislative studies by the members who work in committees to prepare bills for consideration in the upcoming session.

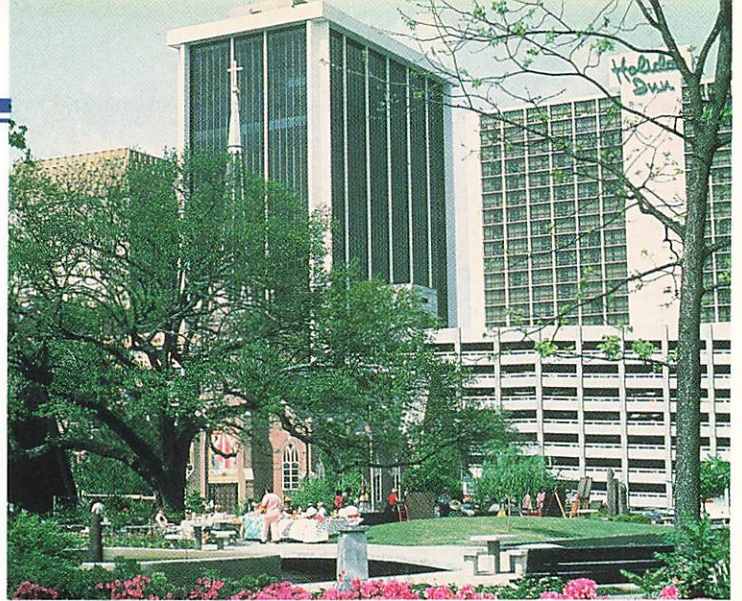
Legislative accountability to the people of Mississippi is provided by publication of all the Legislature's proceedings in journals. As well, the Constitution requires that the doors of each House shall be open "except in cases which may require secrecy."



Judicial Branch

The judicial branch serves as a check on the powers of the executive and the legislative branches through the constitutional power of judicial review. The courts rule on the legality of certain executive policies and regulations and on the constitutionality of legislation passed by the state Legislature.

The judicial power of the state is vested in the Supreme Court and such other courts as provided for by the Constitution. The following chart represents the organization of and the route of appeal through the Mississippi judiciary.



Supreme Court Judges



**Chief Justice
Roy Noble Lee**
DISTRICT 1



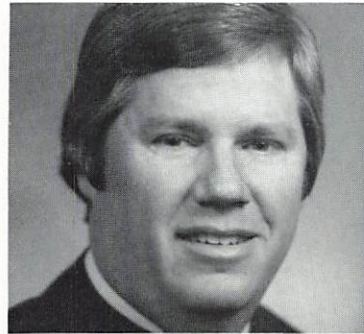
**Presiding Justice
Armis E. Hawkins**
DISTRICT 3



**Presiding Justice
Dan M. Lee**
DISTRICT 1



**Justice
Lenore Prather**
DISTRICT 3



**Justice
James Robertson**
DISTRICT 3



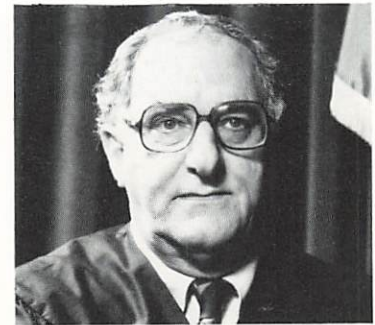
**Justice
Michael Sullivan**
DISTRICT 2



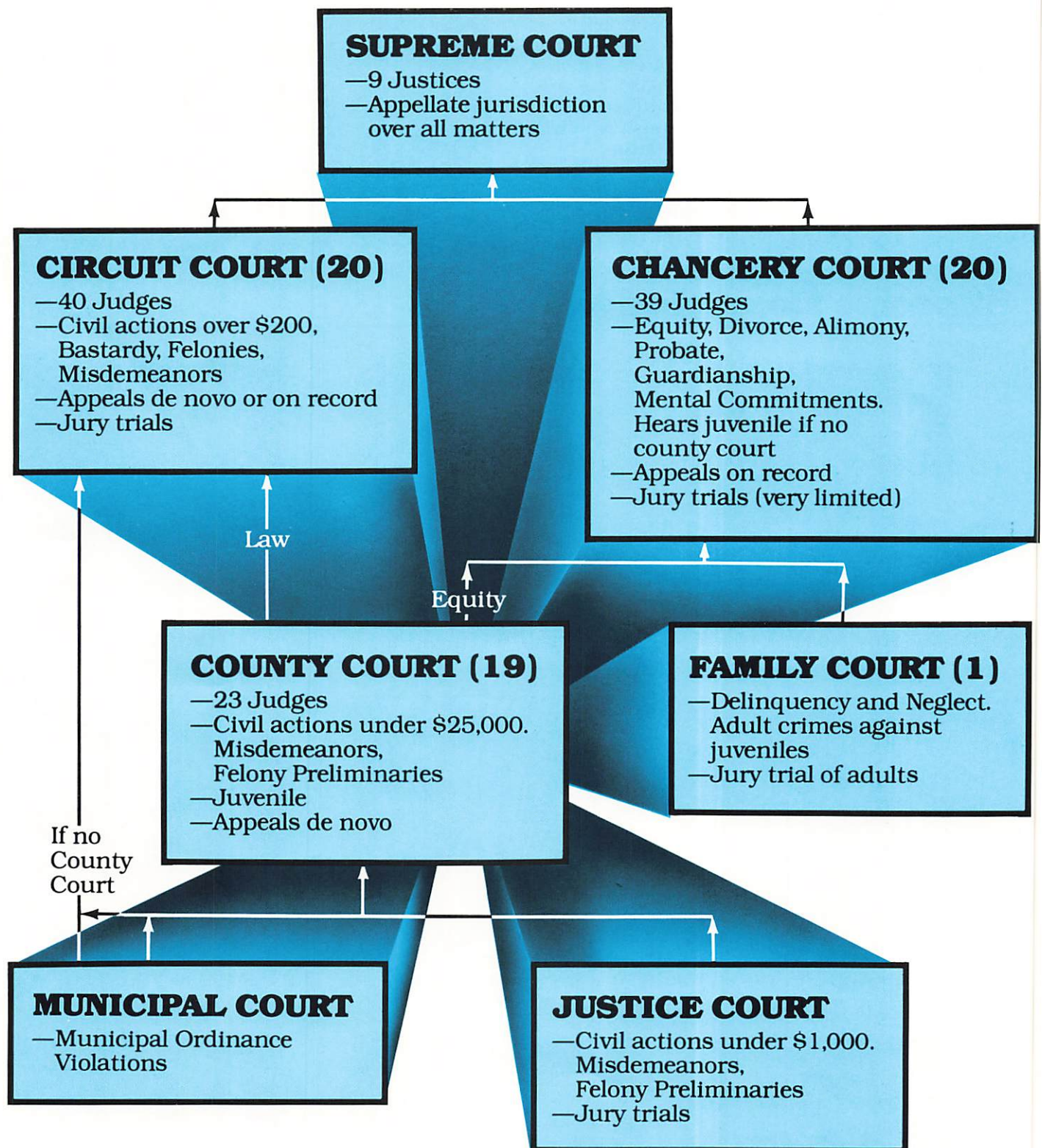
**Justice
Reuben Anderson**
DISTRICT 1



**Justice
J. Ruble Griffin**
DISTRICT 2



**Justice
Joseph Zuccaro**
DISTRICT 2



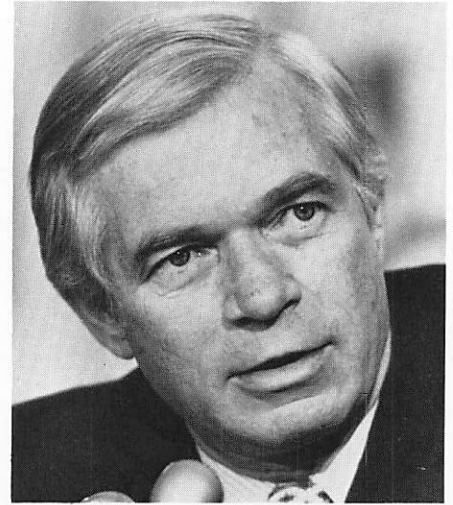
Federal Officials



**United States Senator
John C. Stennis**

Mississippi Congressional Districts

Jamie L. Whitten
First District
United States Congressman

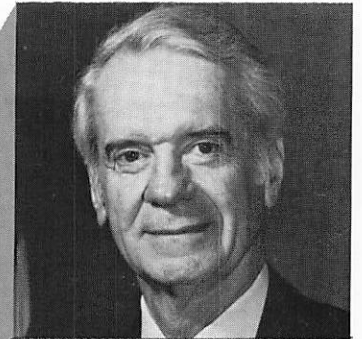


**United States Senator
Thad Cochran**

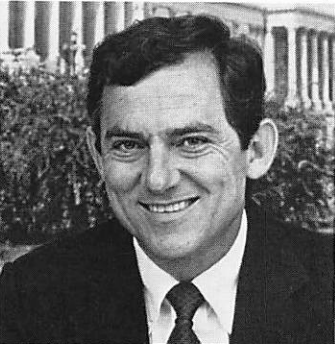
Mike Espy
Second District
United States Congressman



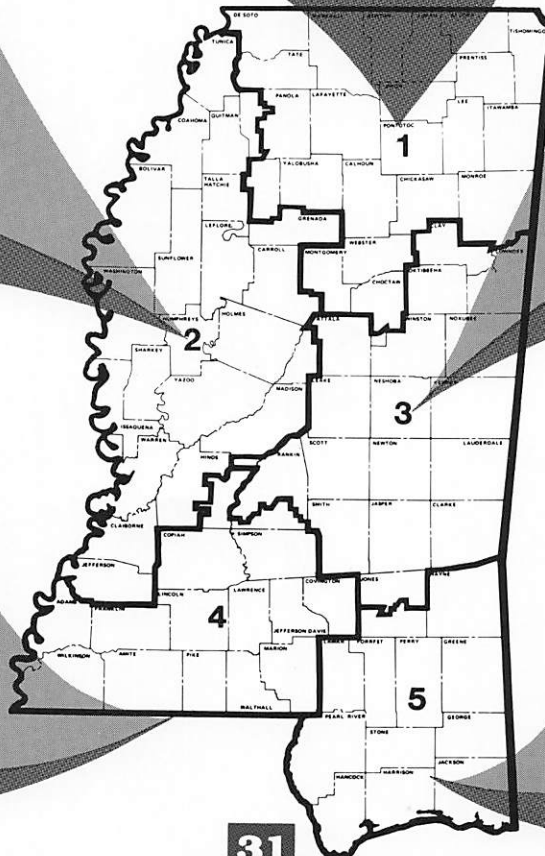
**Gillespie V.
(Sonny) Montgomery**
Third District
United States Congressman



Wayne Dowdy
Fourth District
United States Congressman



Trent Lott
Fifth District
United States Congressman





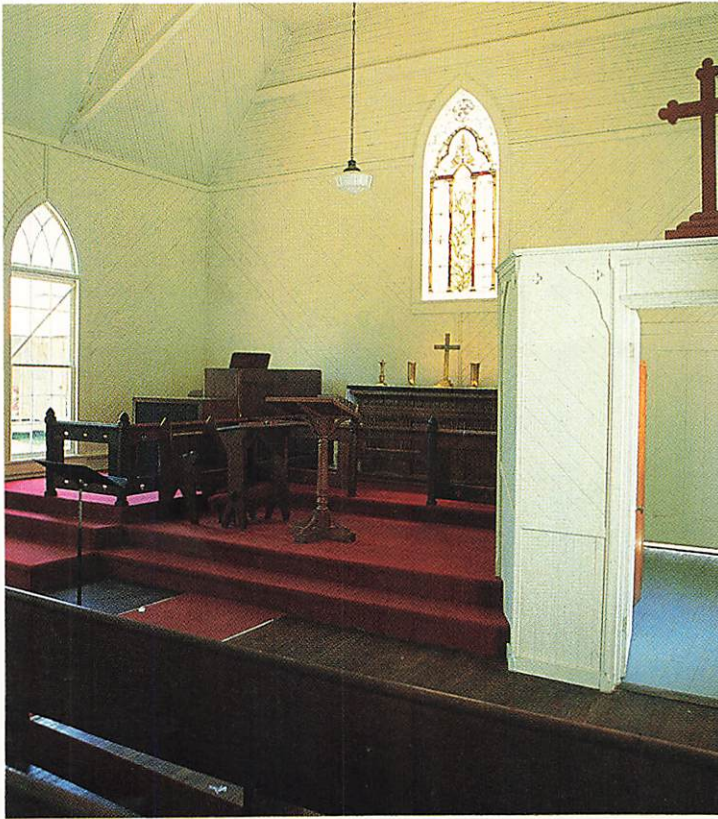
**MISSISSIPPI
FACTS, FIRSTS
& SYMBOLS**

Facts, Firsts & Symbols

Mississippi history is filled with national and international "firsts" and interesting facts. Here are just a few of them—

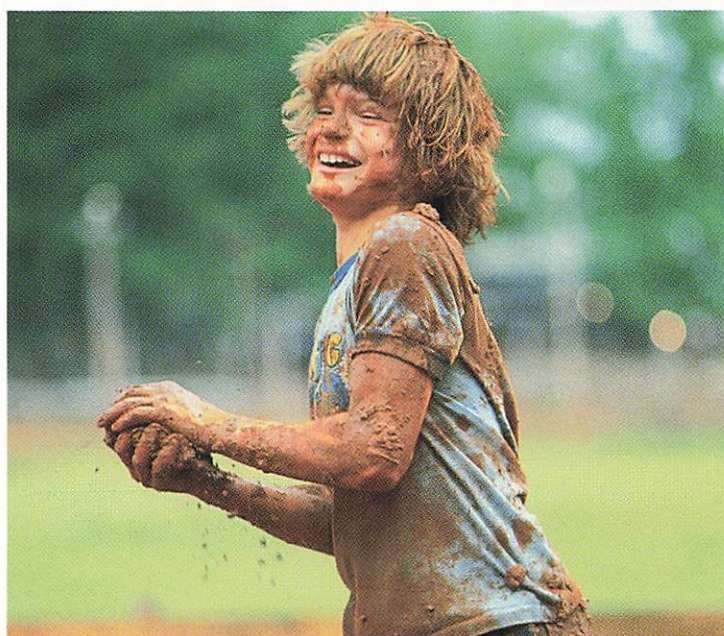
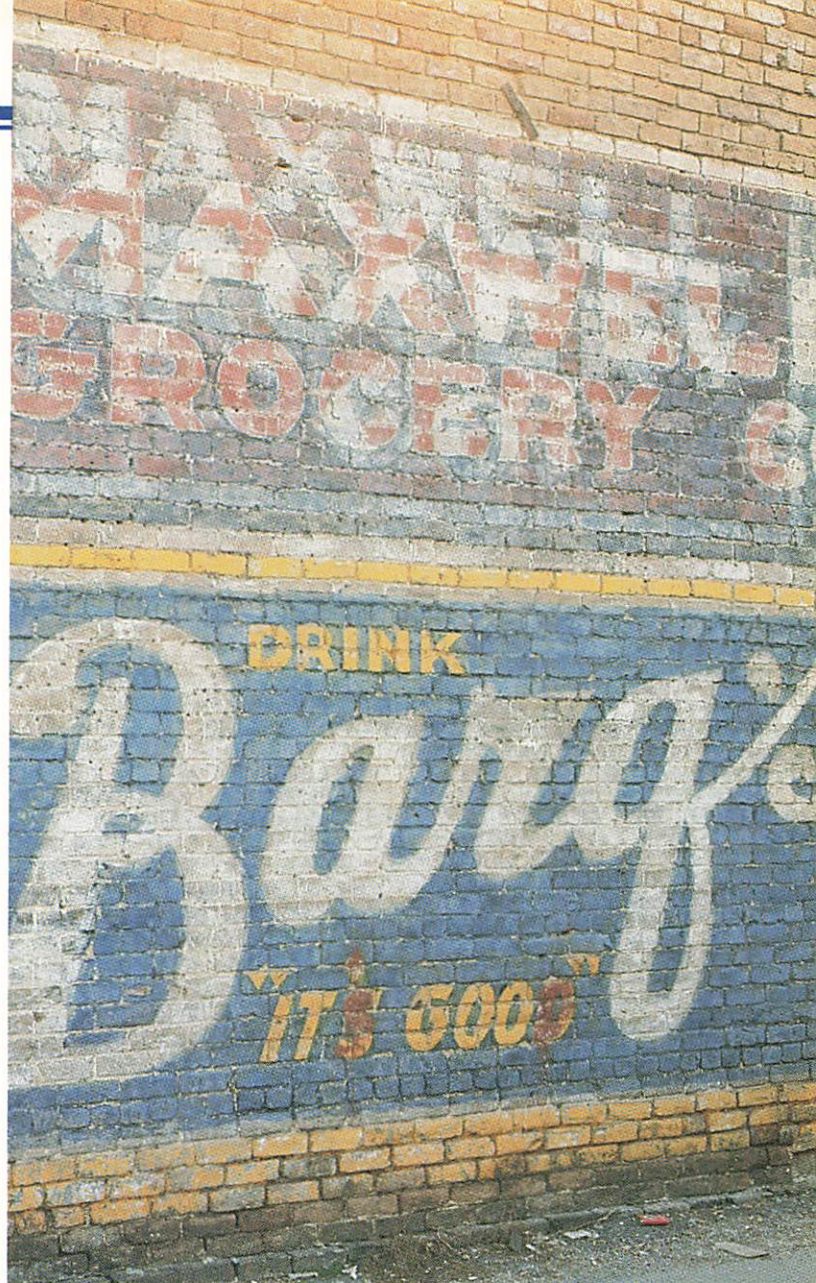
- The first chapter of the PTA was founded in Mississippi in 1909.
- The 4-H Club, first known as the "Corn Club," started in Holmes County in 1907.
- The first human lung transplant was performed at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1963. The first reported heart transplant took place at the same institution a year later.
- Coca-Cola was first put into bottles in Vicksburg in 1894.
- The first cotton crop to be produced completely by machine was harvested in Coahoma County in 1944.
- In 1882, the world's first heavyweight championship fight took place at Mississippi City. It was also in this fight that the term "knockout" was first used. John L. Sullivan won the fight in eight rounds.
- The last sanctioned bare knuckles fight in American boxing history took place near Hattiesburg in 1889. John L. Sullivan won the fight in 74 rounds.
- The first state-funded college for women in the nation was founded in Columbus in 1884. It is known today as Mississippi University for Women.
- Mississippi College in Clinton was the first coeducational college in the nation to grant degrees to women.
- The first concrete road in the south was built in Lee County in 1915.
- The nation's first aerial application of pesticide—crop dusting—took place in Leland in 1927.
- The world's largest collection of blues music is at the University of Mississippi Blues Archives.
- The world's largest collection of original manuscripts and illustrations of children's literature is at the University of Southern Mississippi.
- *National Geographic* magazine is printed in Corinth at Kruger-Ringier Printers.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast is the home of the world's longest man-made beach. It measures 26 miles long and approximately 200 feet wide.
- Peavey Electronics in Meridian is the largest manufacturer of musical equipment and instruments in the world.
- National Microtech of Grenada was the first business to manufacture and market satellite dishes.
- The nation's first black newspaper, *The Atlanta Daily World*, was founded by Mississippian W. A. Scott.
- The Neshoba County Fair is the only remaining campground fair in the nation.
- The nation's first woman to be appointed as a Federal judge was Burnita Shelton Matthews. She was appointed by President Harry Truman in 1949.





- Mississippi has had four Miss Americas—
Mary Ann Mobley (1959)
Lynda Lee Mead (1960)
Cheryl Prewitt (1980)
Susan Diane Akin (1985)
- Mississippi's petrified forest, near Flora, is the only petrified forest in the eastern United States.
- Alcorn University is the oldest land-grant college for blacks in the South.
- America's first artist-potter was George Ohr (1857-1918) of Biloxi.
- America's space shuttle engines are tested at NASA's National Space Technology Laboratory, near Bay St. Louis.
- The first round-trip transoceanic flight was made by H. T. Merrill, an Iuka native, in 1928. His plane was loaded with ping pong balls.
- The official world's record for keeping a plane aloft is held by Al and Fred Key of Meridian. They refueled in the air and kept their plane aloft for 653 hours and 34 minutes in 1935.
- Root beer was invented in Biloxi by Edward Adolf Barq, Sr., in 1898.
- Quinine was first used to treat malaria in 1916 in Bolivar County.
- The world's oldest Holiday Inn is in Clarksdale.
- The National Tobacco Spitting Contest is held in Raleigh each year.
- Jackson is one of four international cities sanctioned to host international ballet competitions.
- In 1933, Tupelo became the first city under contract to the TVA for electrical power.
- The nation's first levee system was built along the Mississippi banks of the Mississippi River in 1860 and stretched for over 300 miles.
- The first nuclear submarine built in the South was built by Ingalls Shipyards in Pascagoula.
- The first can of condensed milk was produced in Liberty by Gail Borden.
- Dr. Rush Nutt developed the first steam powered cotton gin in 1830 in Jefferson County.
- The City of Jackson/Davis Planetarium was the first organization to make a commercial movie in space. That movie, "The Space Shuttle: An American Adventure," won a gold medal in the documentary category at the New York International Film Festival and has been shown throughout the United States.
- In 1963, the first American adrenal gland transplant took place at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.
- The Mississippi Legislature in 1839 passed one of the first laws in the English-speaking world protecting the property rights of married women.

- The University of Mississippi ranks second in the South in the number of Rhodes Scholars it has produced.
- Mississippi, in 1837, became the first state to legislate against dueling.
- The practice of boxing each individual pair of shoes first occurred in Vicksburg in 1837.
- The nationally popular "Lawn of the Month" concept was initiated by Jackson resident Ralph Clynne in 1953.
- The world's largest single art collection by an individual, the Kate Freeman Clark Collection, is in Holly Springs.
- The largest octagonal house in America is Longwood, near Natchez.
- The oldest building in the Mississippi Valley is The Old Spanish Fort in Pascagoula, built circa 1718.
- Sharkey County was the location where President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a small black bear, leading to the creation of the "Teddy Bear" and the beginning of the Ideal Toy Company.
- The Order of Eastern Star was founded in Mississippi in 1847.
- The oldest book in America, an ancient Biblical manuscript, is at the University of Mississippi.
- The Pascagoula National Bank was the first bank in the nation to legally operate a branch bank.
- The first destination city of Delta Airlines, Inc., was Jackson.
- Pine-Sol was invented in 1929 by Jacksonian Harry A. Cole, Sr.
- The state's first post office was located in Natchez, and opened in 1799.
- The nation's capitol building was completed under the supervision of Mississippian and then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis.
- The oldest city on the Mississippi River is Natchez, founded in 1716.
- The world's largest pecan nursery is located in Lumberton.
- Ten native Mississippians have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



State Symbols



State Coat-of-Arms

The committee to design a Coat-of-Arms was appointed by legislative action February 7, 1894, and the design proposed by that committee was accepted and became the official Coat-of-Arms. The committee recommended for the Coat-of-Arms a "Shield in color blue, with an eagle upon it with extended pinions, holding in the right talon a palm branch and a bundle of arrows in the left talon, with the word 'Mississippi' above the eagle; the lettering on the shield and the eagle to be in gold; below the shield two branches of the cotton stalk, saltierwise, as in submitted design, and a scroll below extending upward and one each side three-fourths of the length of the shield; upon the scroll, which is to be red, the motto be printed in gold letters upon white spaces, as in design accompanying, the motto to be — VIRTUTE et ARMIS."

State Fish

The Largemouth or Black Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) was designated the State Fish of Mississippi, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

State Insect

The Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) was designated the State Insect of Mississippi, Chapter 317, General Laws of Mississippi of 1980.

State Shell

An act designating the Oyster Shell (*Crassostrea virginica*) as the State Shell was approved April 12, 1974, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

State Water Mammal

An act designating the Bottlenosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), commonly called the Porpoise, as the State Water Mammal was approved April 12, 1974, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.



State Flag

The committee to design a State Flag was appointed by legislative action February 7, 1894, and provided that the flag reported by the committee should become the official flag. The committee recommended for the flag "one with width two-thirds of its length; with the union square, in width two-thirds of the width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be divided into three bars of equal width, the upper one blue, the center one white, and the lower one extending the whole length of the flag, red — the national colors; the staff surmounted with a spear-head and a battle-axe below; the flag to be fringed with gold, and the staff gilded with gold." The Canton Corner is a replica of the Confederate Battle Flag.

Pledge to the Flag

"I salute the flag of Mississippi and the sovereign state for which it stands with pride in her history and achievements and with confidence in her future under the guidance of Almighty God."

Ref. Section 37-13-7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

State Fossil

A Senate concurrent resolution, designating the prehistoric whale as the state fossil, was adopted March 26, 1981.

State Land Mammal

The White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was designated the State Land Mammal of Mississippi by Senate Bill No. 2324, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

State Waterfowl

The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) was designated the State Waterfowl of Mississippi, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

State Song

"Go Mississippi", was written by Houston Davis and designated by the Mississippi Legislature in 1962 as the official song of the State of Mississippi; Chapter 654, General Laws of Mississippi of 1962.

Sheet music is available from the Office of the Secretary of State.

State Bird

Found in all sections of Mississippi, the cheerful **Mockingbird** was selected as the official State Bird by the Women's Federated Clubs and by the State Legislature in 1944.

State Motto

The State motto of Mississippi, **Virtute et Armis**, meaning by valor and arms, was suggested by the Honorable James Rhea Preston, a native of Virginia, who was at the time Superintendent of Education in the State of Mississippi.

State Beverage

An act to designate milk as the state beverage was adopted by the Mississippi State Legislature during the 1984 Regular Session.



State Flower and Tree

An election was held in November 1900, to select a State Flower. Votes were submitted by 23,278 school children. The magnolia received 12,745 votes, the cotton blossom 4,171 and the cape jasmine 2,484. There were a few votes for other flowers. The magnolia was officially designated as the State Flower by the 1952 Legislature.

In 1935, the Director of Forestry started a movement by which to select a State Tree for Mississippi, to be selected by nomination and election by the school children of the State. Four nominations were made — the magnolia, oak, pine and dogwood. The magnolia received by far the largest majority. On April 1, 1938, the Mississippi Legislature officially designated the magnolia as the State Tree. Chapter 365, Laws of Mississippi of 1938.

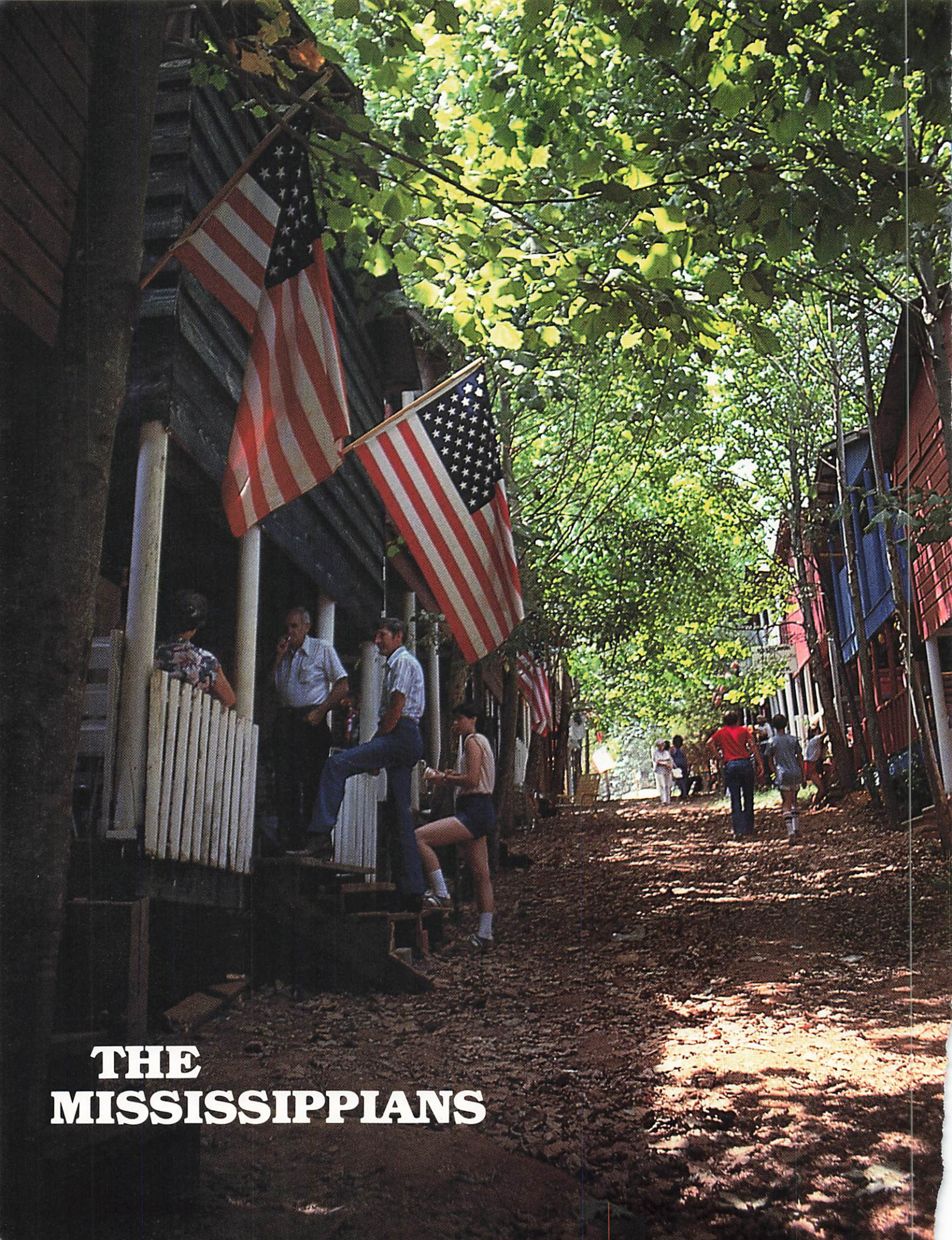
State Stone

A Senate Concurrent Resolution, designating petrified wood as the state stone, was adopted May 14, 1976.



The Great Seal of Mississippi

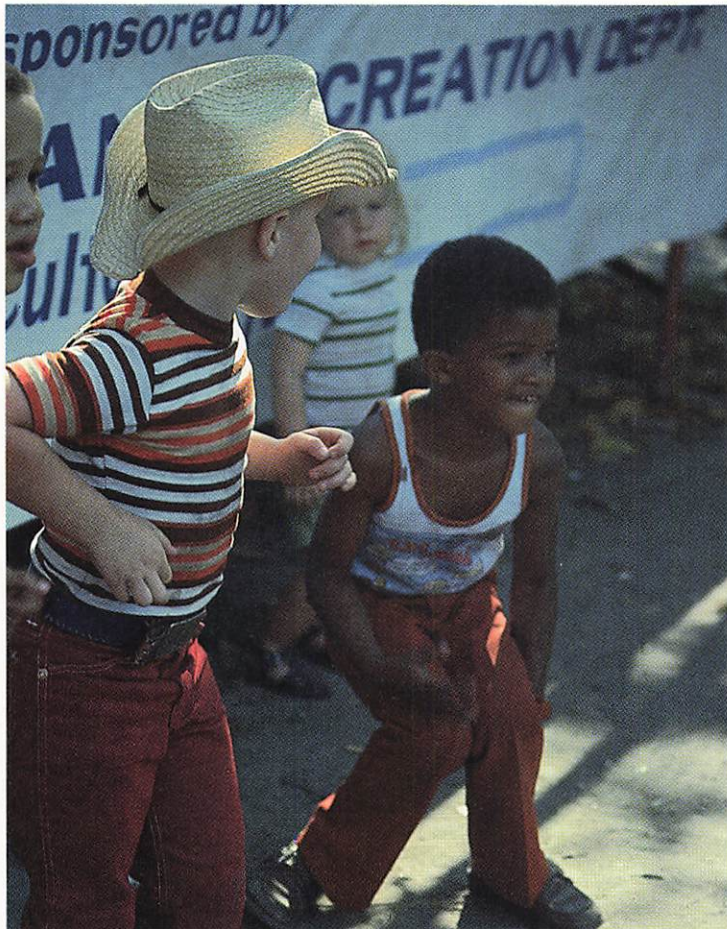
The present State Seal has been in use since Mississippi became a state in 1817. It is described in the Laws of the State of Mississippi, First Session, First General Assembly, 1817-1818, as follows: "The seal of this state, the inscription of which shall be 'the great seal of the state of Mississippi' around the margin, and in the center an eagle, with the olive branch and quiver of arrows in his claws."



THE MISSISSIPPIANS

The Mississippians

- John Alexander—New York Metropolitan Opera star.
- Margaret Walker Alexander—Poet, novelist, essayist, and author of the international best-seller *Jubilee*.
- John Maury Allin—Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. from June 1, 1974, through December 31, 1985.
- Mose Allison—Jazz pianist and songwriter.
- Lance Allworth—Hall of Fame football player.
- Walter Anderson—Artist, potter, illustrator, and author.
- Dana Andrews—Film star.
- Dennis Bailey—Operatic tenor and member of the New York Metropolitan Opera.
- Moe Bandy—Country music singer and songwriter.
- Walter Lanier "Red" Barber—Sports writer.
- Lerone Bennett—Journalist, historian, and Senior Editor of *Ebony* magazine.

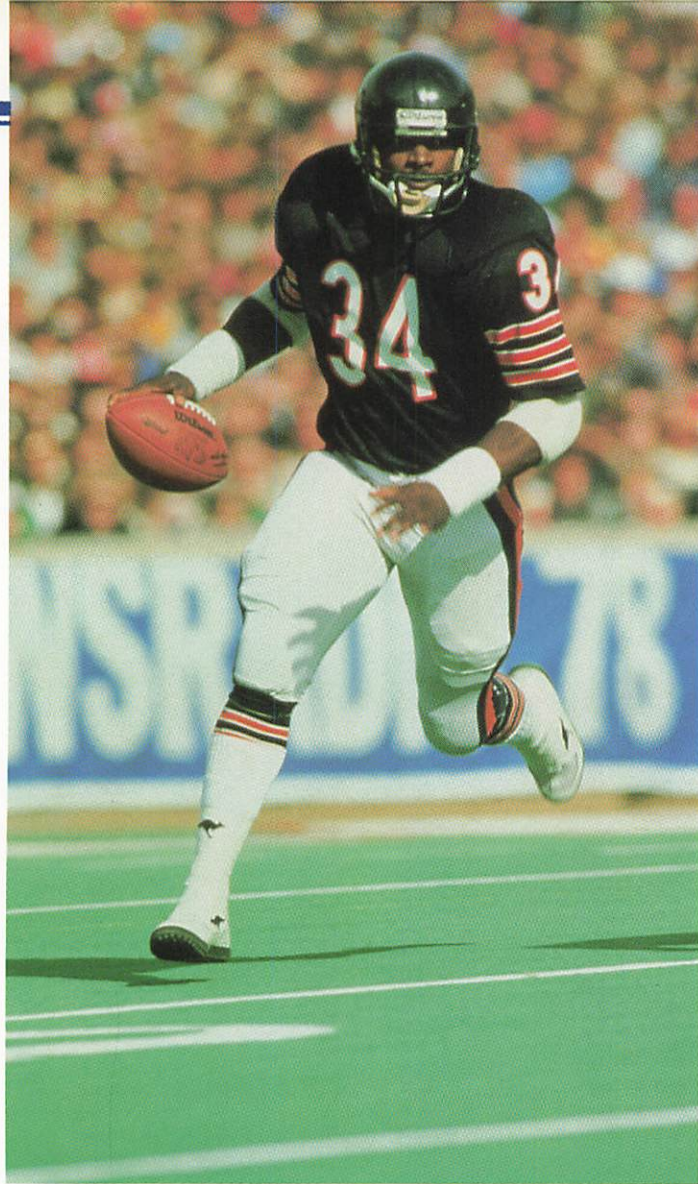


- Jimmy Buffet—Singer and songwriter.
- John Butler—Internationally renowned ballet and dance choreographer.
- Will D. Campbell—Minister, award-winning novelist and author of *Brother to a Dragonfly*.
- Hodding Carter II—Journalist, newspaper editor, and Pulitzer Prize winner.
- Hodding Carter III—Assistant Secretary of State for Public Policy under Jimmy Carter.
- Turner Catledge—Author and former executive editor of the *New York Times*.
- Craig Claiborne—Gourmet and food editor to the *New York Times*.
- Jerry Clower—Comedian, humanitarian, and member of the Grand Ole Opry.
- Mart Crowley—Playwright and television producer.
- Dizzy Dean—Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, former pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, and sports television commentator.
- Bo Diddley (Elias McDaniels)—Guitarist, singer, and songwriter, considered by many to be the father of rock-and-roll.
- Ellen Douglass—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of the Houghton Mifflin-Esquire Fellowship Award and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award.
- Walter Eggleston—Color photographer.
- Lehman Engel—Three-time Tony winner, composer, conductor, and author.
- Medgar Evers—Mississippi's first state field secretary for the NAACP and 1960s civil rights worker.
- William Faulkner—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, two Pulitzer Prizes, the National Book Award, and numerous literary honors. Faulkner is considered by many to be the finest novelist that America has produced.
- Louise Fletcher—Movie actress.
- Shelby Foote—Novelist, historian, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his three volume history of the Civil War.
- Richard Ford—Novelist, essayist, short story writer, and winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Pete Fountain—World-famous clarinetist.
- Ellen Gilchrist—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of the American Book Award for Best Fiction and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award.
- Arthur Guyton—Physician and author of the most widely used text on physiology in the world.
- Theora Hamblett—Artist widely admired for her colorful, primitive style.
- Fannie Lou Hamer—Civil rights activist instrumental in voter registration drives in the mid-sixties.

- W. C. Handy—Jazz and blues musician and writer of "The St. Louis Blues." Handy was instrumental in the popularization of jazz and blues.
- Barry Hannah—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of the William Faulkner Prize and a Guggenheim Fellowship.
- James Hardy—Surgeon and head of the team of surgeons performing the first heart and first lung transplants on record.
- Beth Henley—Playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner.
- Jim Henson—Creator of the Muppets.
- Rebecca Hill—Novelist and winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award.
- M. Carl Holman—Newspaper editor and president of the National Urban League.
- Marie Hull—Jackson painter noted for her portraiture and landscapes.
- Alan Hunter—MTV VJ and personality.
- Robert Johnson—King of the Delta Blues, musician, songwriter, and guitarist. Johnson was influential in the development of blues, country, and rock-and-roll music.
- James Earl Jones—Actor and voice of Darth Vader in the movie *Star Wars*.
- Laurence C. Jones—Teacher, pioneer in black education in Mississippi, humanitarian, and founder of the Piney Woods Country Life School.
- Lawrence "Rabbit" Kennedy—Most decorated soldier in the U.S. Army.
- B. B. King—Blues guitarist, singer, songwriter, and one of the most popular blues performers of all time.
- Fred Knoblock—Guitarist, singer, and songwriter.
- Bernard Law—Archbishop of Boston; Cardinal.
- Beverly Lowery—Novelist, short story writer, essayist, and winner of the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship.
- Archie Manning—Former quarterback for the New Orleans Saints and the Minnesota Vikings.
- Gerald McRaney—Film and television star.
- James Meredith—Businessman, author, civil rights activist, and first black to be enrolled at the University of Mississippi.
- Willie Morris—Journalist, novelist, Rhodes Scholar, winner of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award, and youngest editor-in-chief in *Harper's* history.
- Jack Nelson—Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*.
- Gloria Norris—Novelist, short story writer, and editor in chief of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

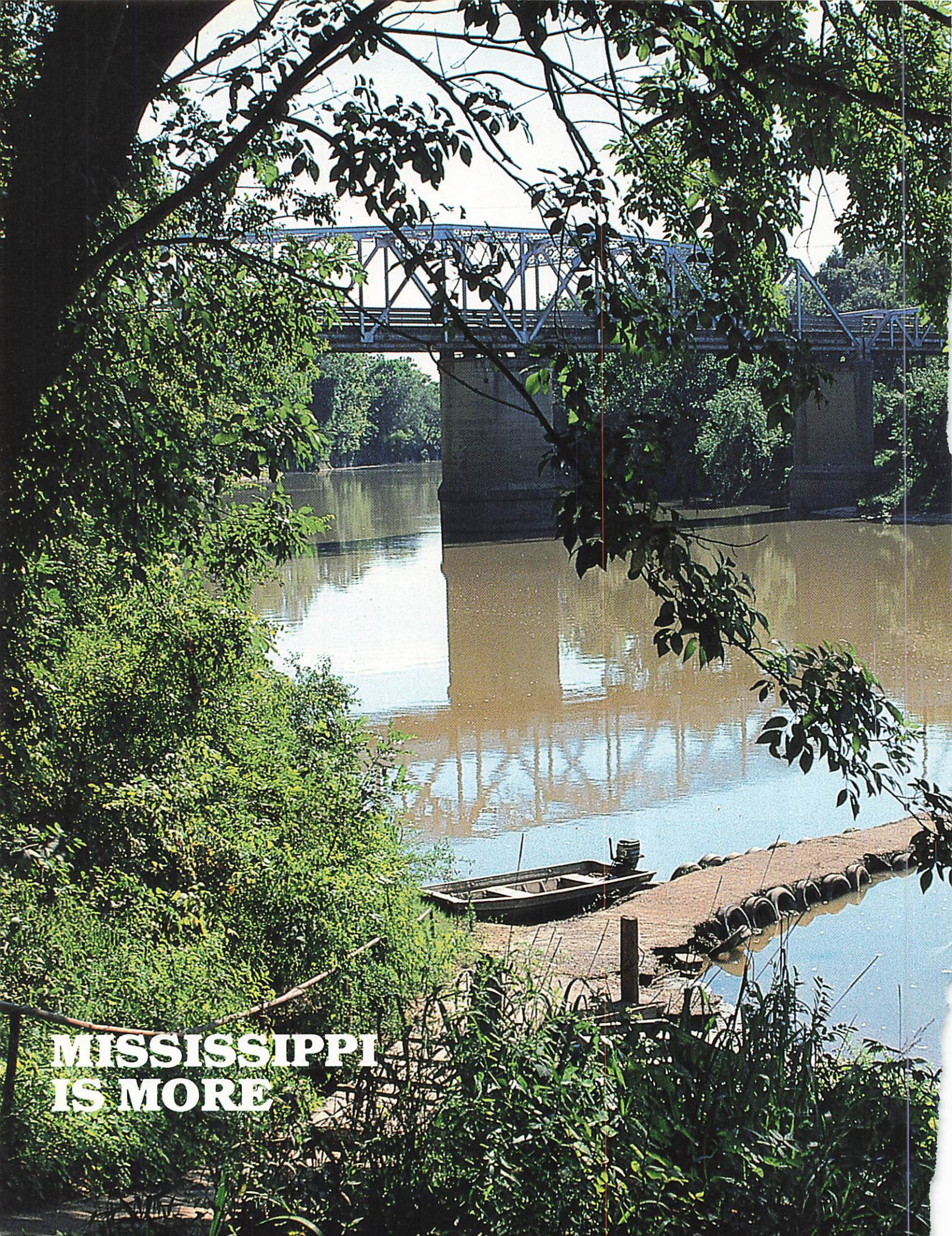


—Photo by J. D. Schwalm
Clarion Ledger/Jackson Daily News



- Chuck Scarborough—NBC news anchor.
- Calvin Smith—World record holder in the 100-meter dash and relay.
- Larry Speakes—Former deputy press secretary to President Ronald Reagan.
- Elizabeth Spencer—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of numerous literary awards, including the Award of Merit for the Short Story by the American Institute of Arts and Letters.
- Stella Stevens—Film and television star.
- William Grant Still—Composer whose *Afro-American Symphony* was the first symphonic work by a black to be performed in this country.
- Emmett Thames—Artist.
- Kathy Thibodeaux—International Ballet Competition silver medalist.
- Richard Truly—Astronaut, chief of NASA's Space Flight program.
- Conway Twitty—Country music star, singer, and songwriter.
- Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield)—Singer, songwriter, and blues guitarist instrumental in the popularization of Chicago blues.
- Ida B. Wells—Journalist, pioneer in black activism and women's rights, and co-founder of the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP.
- Eudora Welty—Novelist, short story writer, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the American Book Award, and numerous other literary awards and honors.
- Tennessee Williams—Novelist, short story writer, poet, playwright, and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes and four New York Drama Critics Awards. Williams is considered by many to be the finest playwright America has produced.
- General Louis H. Wilson—Commandant of the Marine Corps 1974-1978 and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Oprah Winfrey—Nationally syndicated talk show hostess.
- Howlin' Wolf (Chester Burnett)—Singer, songwriter, and blues musician instrumental in the development of Chicago blues.
- Richard Wright—Poet, novelist, short story writer, and essayist; one of the most important black writers of this century.
- Tammy Wynette—Country music star.
- Al Young—Poet, essayist, musician, novelist, scriptwriter, and winner of the Joseph Henry Jackson Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.
- Zig Ziegler—Nationally acclaimed motivational speaker and author.

- Dave Parker—Outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds.
- Walter Payton—Running back for the Chicago Bears.
- Walker Percy—Novelist, essayist, and winner of the National Book Award and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Literature Award.
- William Alexander Percy—Poet and author of the autobiography *Lanterns on the Levee*.
- Bob Pittman—Founder and president of MTV.
- Elvis Presley—Singer, actor, and the undisputed "king of rock-and-roll" who sold over 100,000,000 records in his lifetime.
- Leontyne Price—Operatic soprano, first black to achieve stardom in the field of opera, and winner of fifteen Grammy awards and a Presidential Freedom Medal in 1964.
- Charley Pride—Recording artist and three-time Grammy winner in country music.
- William Raspberry—Nationally syndicated newspaper columnist.
- Jerry Rice—Wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers.
- Jimmie Rodgers—Father of country music and one of the most influential songwriters in America.



**MISSISSIPPI
IS MORE**

Mississippi Is More

Canoe a quiet stream, or visit one of the nation's largest planetariums. Attend a catfish dinner for thousands, a pilgrimage, or the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi.

There is so much to see and do in Mississippi, the most difficult part is just deciding what to do first. So here are some suggestions.

As you will discover, this is just the beginning.

Events

February

The Dixie National Livestock
Show and Rodeo
Mardi Gras

Jackson

Coast area
Natchez

March

Oyster Festival
Pilgrimages

Gulf Coast
Vicksburg
Port Gibson
Natchez
Woodville
Gulf Coast
Vicksburg

Run Through History

April

Deep South Festival
Lively Arts Festival
Railroad Festival
Riverfest
Pilgrimages

Columbus
Meridian
Amory
Vicksburg
Aberdeen
Columbus
Monticello
Hattiesburg
Carrollton
Holly Springs
Panola County
Belzoni
Hattiesburg

Catfish Festival
Magnolia Classic
Golf Tournament
Natchez Trace Festival
Landing of D'Iberville

Kosciusko
Ocean Springs

May

Blessing of the Fleet
Day in the Park
Flea Market and Crafts Show
Gum Tree Festival
Jimmie Rodgers Festival
Jubilee! Jam Art/Music Festival
Mississippi Opera Festival of the South
(May-June)
Smith Robertson Folklore Festival
St. Jude Open Bass Classic

Pass Christian
Laurel
Canton
Tupelo
Meridian
Jackson
Jackson
Jackson
Sardis

June

Art Mart/Pecan Grove Festival
B. B. King Festival
Blessing of the Fleet

Batesville
Indianola
Biloxi



International Ballet Competition
(1986, 1990)

Jackson

National Tobacco Spit
Shrimp Festival

Raleigh
Biloxi

July

Choctaw Indian Fair
Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo
Grenada Lake Festival
Seafood Festival
(July-August)

Philadelphia
Gulfport
Grenada
Pass Christian

Watermelon Festival

Mize

August

Faulkner Conference
Folklife Festival
Neshoba County Fair
Possum Town Pig Fest

Oxford
Columbus Area
Philadelphia
Columbus

September

Delta Blues Festival
Expo 1850
Seafood Festival

Greenville
Greenwood
Gulf Coast

October

Art Festival
Farrish Street Festival
Flea Market and Crafts Show
Gumbo Festival of the Universe
Mississippi State Fair
Natives and Pioneers Heritage Days
Oktober Fest

Ocean Springs
Jackson
Canton
Necaise Crossing
Jackson
Ridgeland
Biloxi

November

Heritage Music Festival
Sweet Potato Festival

Vicksburg
Vardaman

December

Christmas at Floewood
Christmas in Natchez
Luminaries on the Bayou
(Christmas Eve)
Trees of Christmas
Victorian Candlelight Tours

Greenwood
Natchez
Inverness
Meridian
Columbus

For additional information on these and other events
contact:

Mississippi Department of Economic Development
Division of Tourism
Post Office Box 22825
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Out-of-State (Toll Free) 1-800-647-2290
In State (Toll Free) 1-800-962-2346
In Jackson 359-3414

Places of Interest

- National Space Technology Laboratory
I-10 and Hwy 607
Bay St. Louis
688-2321
NASA Center. Exhibit area and tours, including tours of Space Shuttle Test Complex. Open year round. Free.
- Beauvoir
West Beach Boulevard
Biloxi
388-1313
Historic last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Open year round. Admission.
- Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Marine Education Center and Aquarium
1650 East Beach Boulevard
Biloxi
374-5550
Features living displays of coastal zone animals including fish, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Open year round.
- Keesler Air Force Base
White Avenue off Highway 90
Biloxi
377-2254
Electronics and computer training center for the U.S. Air Force. Home of the Hurricane Hunters; aircraft exhibits. Open year round. Free.
- Seafood Industry Museum
Highway 90 & First Street
Biloxi
435-6320
Features exhibits depicting growth and development of Biloxi's colorful seafood industry. Open year round. Admission. Last Wednesday of each month free.
- Delta Blues Museum
114 Delta Avenue
Clarksdale
624-4461
Features performances, exhibits, and memorabilia about the blues, America's unique form of music. Open year round. Free.
- Winery Rushing
Old Drew Road
Five miles north of Cleveland
748-2731
Mississippi's first winery since Prohibition. Located on twenty-five acres of vineyards. Open year round. Free.
- Blewett-Harrison-Lee Home
7th Street North
Columbus
329-3533
Home of General Stephen D. Lee that today houses the Columbus-Lowndes Historical Society Museum. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. Free.
- Dunn's Falls
Route 1
Enterprise
655-8550
A 65-foot waterfall used to power grist mill; natural wildlife refuge. Open year round. Call for days and hours.
- Mississippi Petrified Forest
Petrified Forest Road, 2½ miles southwest of Flora
Flora
879-8189
Features trees 39 million years old and is the only petrified forest east of the Mississippi. Open year round. Admission.



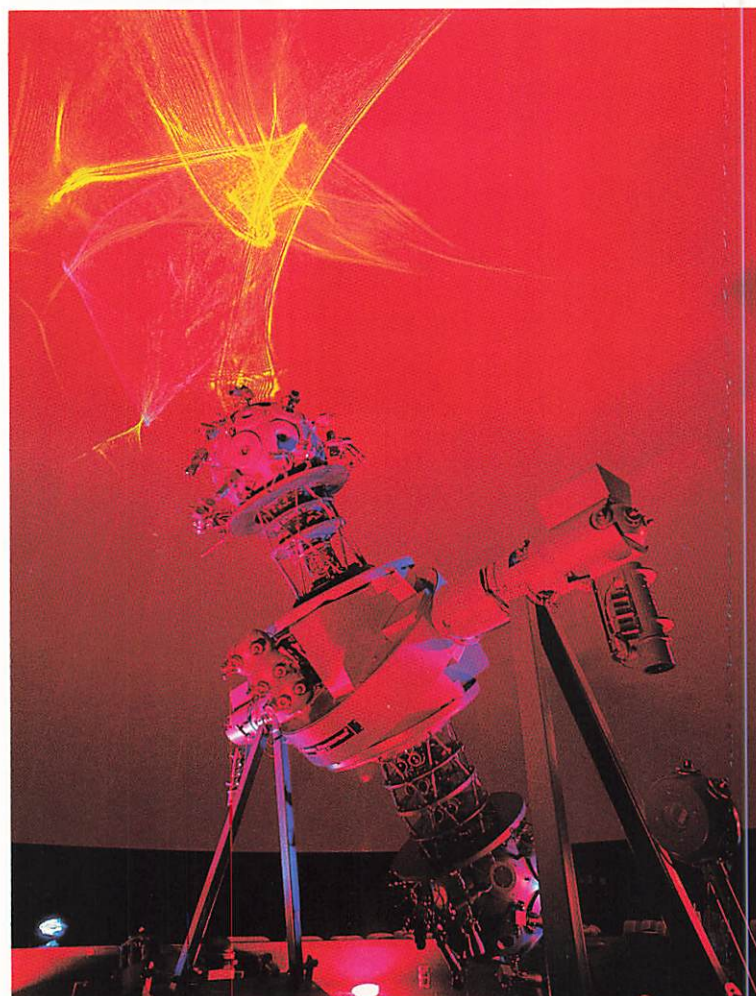
- Florewood River Plantation
U.S. 82, 2 miles west of Greenwood
Greenwood
455-3821
Re-creation of the plantation life of the 1850s. Authentically clad plantation members perform the daily tasks of plantation life. Open year round. Admission.
- Dizzy Dean Museum
Lakeland Drive
Jackson
960-2404
Memorabilia of Mississippi's greatest baseball star, Dizzy Dean. Open during baseball season. Admission.
- Jackson Zoological Park
2918 West Capitol Street
Jackson
960-1575
Features twenty-one acres landscaped to reproduce the habitat of over 500 animals. Open year round. Admission.
- Manship House
420 East Fortification Street
Jackson
961-4724
Home of Charles Manship, the Jackson mayor who surrendered the city to General Sherman in 1863. Now a museum that accurately recreates family life of that period. Open Tuesday-Sunday.
- Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive
Jackson
354-6113
Features exhibits portraying the development of agriculture and forestry in Mississippi. Also featured is the re-creation of a small, turn-of-the-century Mississippi town. Open year round. Admission.
- Mississippi Museum of Art
Pascagoula Street and Lamar Street
Jackson
960-1515
Features permanent and changing exhibitions with an emphasis on 19th and 20th century works. Open year round. Admission.
- Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
111 North Jefferson Street
Jackson
354-7303
Exhibitions of native Mississippi plant and animal life. Educational audio-visual presentations. Open year round. Free.
- Old Capitol Museum
100 South State Street
Jackson
354-6222
State historical museum. Permanent and changing exhibitions of artistic and historical interest. Open year round. Free.
- Russell C. Davis Planetarium
201 East Pascagoula Street
Jackson
960-1550
One of the nation's largest, the Russell C. Davis

Planetarium presents educational and entertaining programs ranging from audio-visual presentations to live drama. Open year round. Admission.

- Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center
823 North Jefferson Street
Jackson
353-9339
The first museum devoted entirely to black culture and history in Mississippi. Open year round. Monday-Friday.
- Lauren Rogers Museum
5th Avenue & 7th Street
Laurel
649-6374
Museum housing one of the South's largest permanent collection of paintings; sculptures from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries; baskets from around the world; elaborate silver and gold exhibit. Open year round. Free.
- Highland Park Dentzel Carousel
19th & 41st Street
Meridian
485-1813
Features antique Dentzel Carousel, one of only four hand-carved 19th century carousels remaining. Open year round, weekends October-April. Admission.



- **Jimmie Rodgers Museum**
Highland Park
Meridian
Museum honoring the father of country music. Memorabilia and personal effects are exhibited. Monday-Saturday, 10-4; Sunday, 1-4. Admission.
- **Grand Village of the Natchez Indians**
400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard
Natchez
446-6502
Features artifacts of the Natchez Indians and is located on the site of their main village. Also featured are a film presentation and a gift shop.
- **Gulf Island National Seashore**
3500 Park Road
Ocean Springs
875-9057
Contains exhibits on the National Seashore, theatre with 30-minute film, sales outlet. Open year round.
- **Shearwater Pottery**
Shearwater Drive
Ocean Springs
875-7320
Showroom and studio of artist Walter Anderson. Art and pottery of Anderson and family featured. Open year round. Free.
- **Rowan Oak**
Old Taylor Road
Oxford
234-3284
Home of William Faulkner. Features exhibits of Faulkner memorabilia. Operates on academic schedule. Free.
- **Choctaw Museum of the Southern Indian**
Hwy 16, west of Philadelphia
Philadelphia
656-5251
Exhibits and archives of Choctaw Indians and other regional tribes. Open year round. Free.
- **Mississippi Railway Museum**
Port Bienville Industrial Park
Port Bienville
268-9099
Visitors board passenger cars for a 45-minute journey in this operable museum that recreates the adventure of the railroads. Open weekends, May-October. Admission.
- **Elvis Presley Birthplace and Memorial Chapel**
306 Elvis Presley Drive
Tupelo
842-9796
Childhood home of Elvis Presley. Memorabilia and gift shop. Open year round. Admission.
- **Casey Jones Museum**
I-55, Exit 133
Vaughan
673-9864
Museum of railroads in Mississippi. Commemorates Casey Jones, legendary engineer killed in 1900 one mile north of the museum. Open year round. Admission.
- **Biedenharn Candy Company Museum**
1105 Washington Street
Vicksburg
638-6514



Memorabilia from company that first bottled Coca-Cola. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8:30-4:30; Sunday, 1:30-4:30.

- **Old Courthouse**
1008 Cherry Street
Vicksburg
636-0741
Features artifacts of Vicksburg's civil war, Indian, and steamboat history. Open year round. Admission.
- **Vicksburg National Military Park**
I-20, Exit 4-B, Clay St.
Vicksburg
636-0583
Site of battlefield during the siege of Vicksburg. The park features walking trails, artifacts exhibits, and a narrative film about the battle. Open year round. Admission.



Mississippi State Parks

Our state parks offer rivers and creeks for fishing and canoeing, lakes for swimming and skiing, nature trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and forests for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Whether you want to rough it or to have all the comforts of home, there is a Mississippi state park with the accommodations to make your stay a good one.

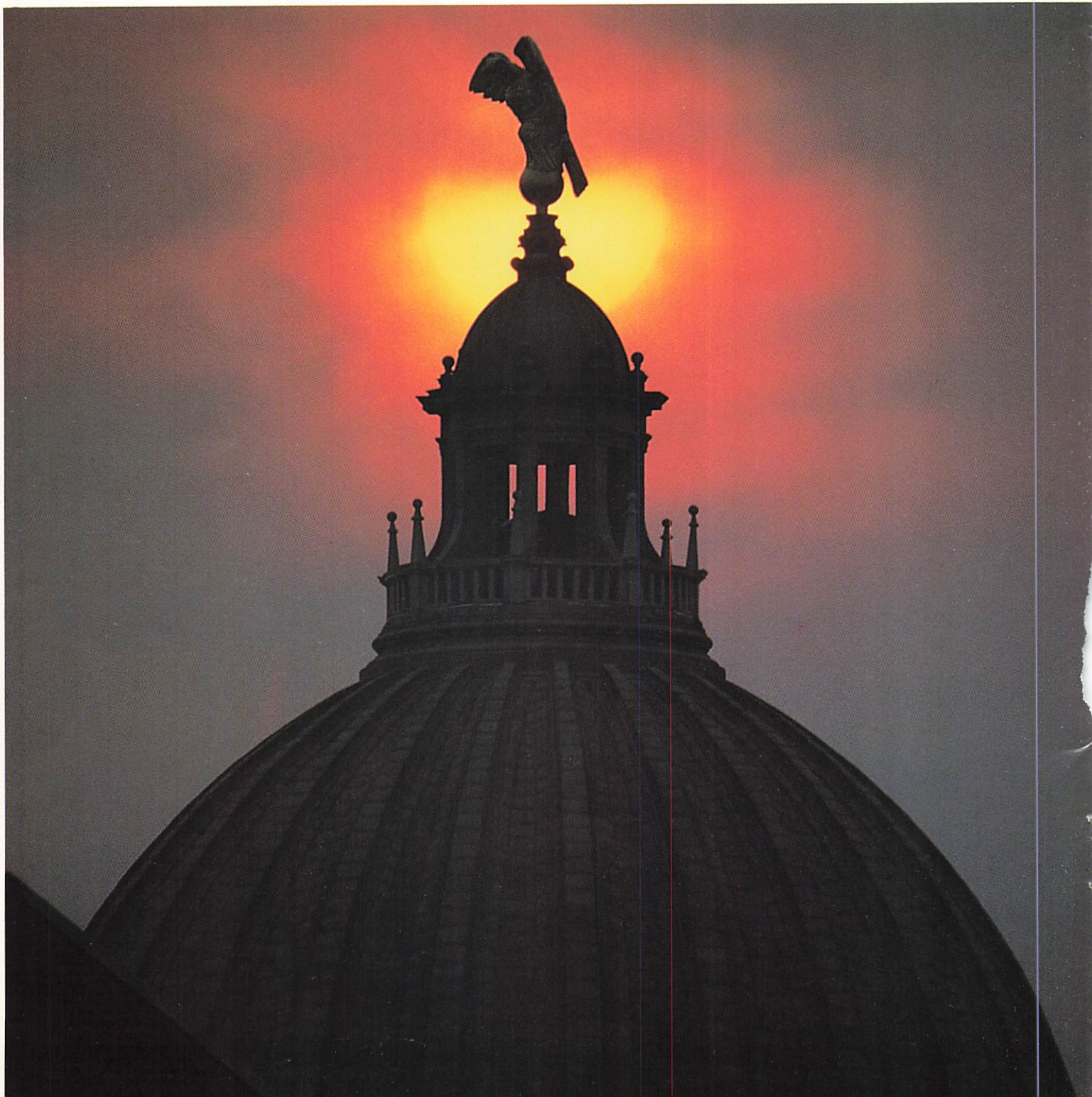
The recreational opportunities and facilities which each park offers vary and may be seasonal. For more information about the state park nearest you, contact—

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 10600
Jackson, MS
39205
601/961-5099

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Scot Malvaney, Editor



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